PROJECT SUMMARY

The Academic Library Management, Human Resources, and Staff Development Study of International Collaboration is an exploratory study to aggregate and analyze past efforts and interest in future international collaborative initiatives among library associations that serve academic and research libraries in the areas of human resources, staff development and library management. For this purpose, an international survey of committees, discussion groups, round tables, sections, associations and other units within library associations focused on academic and research library management, human resource functions, and professional development was developed.

JUSTIFICATION

The ability to engage in nearly instantaneous communication, to exchange information and to build remotely accessible databases has changed the way research is conducted and library services delivered. International collaboration is becoming more and more ubiquitous among academic libraries and library associations, especially in the areas of preservation, special collections, and area studies. According to an in depth literature review however, cross-fertilization in the areas of library management, human resources, and professional development is much less common. While legislation and practices vary greatly from country to country, collaboration and benchmarking practices across cultures may well encourage greater innovation and provide the opportunity to access a broader knowledge base and expertise to strategically manage and staff the increasingly complex academic library.

BENEFITS OF INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

- Expanded perspectives by sharing best practices and learning from a broader and more diverse professional network
- Increased ability to support the teaching and research mission of the our universities
- Production of practical reports/studies on specific issues to help inform our policies and program development
- Ability to benchmark activities against international counterparts with similar outlooks and expectations
- Advise senior leaders in our libraries about human resources, staff development, and management issues within the context of internationalizing our universities
- Greater innovation through partnerships outside of traditional boundaries

PROJECT TEAM

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