

## Library Services

### Current Landscape for Academic Libraries - Change

Our Library Director left Langara in January. Rather than immediately hiring a new director, we elected to evaluate the issues impacting academic libraries like Langara over the next 10 years, in order to best meet the evolving needs of our community. In doing so, we found that the coming trends in academic libraries are rapid and varied, and include:

- changes to learning - students expect convenience, interaction and collaboration;
- importance of learning to engage and keep engaging students;
- increased instructional delivery models – in-person, blended and online courses;
- more complex digital / physical/ blended publishing models;
- integrating students from all over the world with different languages, cultures and expectations;
- imperative for college libraries to “communicate value.”<sup>1</sup>

Libraries must demonstrate that they are not an ancillary service to support learning and teaching objectives but rather an integral contributor to academic initiatives.

Within this shifting landscape, Langara Library, as with many academic libraries around the world, is undertaking an initiative to develop a comprehensive 5-10 year strategic vision and plan.

From the outset we wanted an objective external facilitator to guide us through this process. The Library formed a working group, including a faculty representative, to help formulate a Request for Information and Qualification (RFIQ) outlining what we want to accomplish. This was posted on BC Bid via Langara’s Purchasing Department.

We ultimately selected Dysart & Jones Associates ([www.dysartjones.com](http://www.dysartjones.com)). The firm has over 20 years’ experience facilitating strategic, business, service and organizational planning. Langara Library will be working most closely with Rebecca Jones. Her colleagues will provide support in various aspects of the project as needed.

The strategic planning process will involve Library staff, College administration, faculty, students and staff in developing our strategic plan. By March, the Library will have a strategic plan for 2013-2023 that articulates the Library’s role, vision, values, strategies and specific goals along with the measures of success for realizing these strategies.

#### Dysart & Jones at Langara

September 26 & 27	<b>Understand Today &amp; Tomorrow’s Trends:</b> Meetings with Steering Committee, Planning Team, Library Staff, Focus groups (faculty & students), and Key stakeholders to discuss issues affecting Langara, academic trends, your own information behaviours and preferences, and possible future directions for the Library
November 27 & 28	<b>Envision the Future:</b> Strategic Planning Sessions dealing with the implications of phase one revelations
January 14 & 15	<b>Refining the Vision:</b> Strategic Planning Sessions refining the outcomes to date; further developing goals and actions; determining approaches to measure accomplishments
February 28	<b>Document the plan:</b> Final reports

The Library is excited with this opportunity. We encourage your participation. As the project progresses we will provide updates through *By the Way* and Library Central (<http://iweb.langara.bc.ca/librarycentral/>).

If you have any questions, please contact:

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<sup>1</sup> This is #1 of ARCL’s “2012 Top Ten Trends in Academic Libraries” in June 2012 issue of *College & Research Libraries*, pp. 311+