

The Well-Read Librarian: Long Range Planning for Libraries

By: Marissa Priddis

Articles

Dougherty, R. M. (2002). Planning for New Library Futures. *Library Journal*, 127 (9) 2002, 38-42.

This article emphasizes the importance of strategic planning in the face of change, rather than in response to changes that have occurred. Different techniques, principles and examples are provided for both university and public library environments.

Kettunen, J. (2007). The Strategic Evaluation of Academic Libraries. *Library Hi Tech*, 25 (3), 409-422.

The article discusses network strategies in academic libraries, as well as the value of using a "balanced scorecard" approach in evaluation and implementation.

Ladwig, J.C. (2005). Assess the State of Your Strategic Plan. *Library Administration & Management*, 19 (2), 90-94.

The article focuses on reviewing and assessing a previously written strategic plan, and to understand "what is planning and is not." Also discusses communication with managers, documentation and processes.

Linn, M. (2008). Planning Strategically and Strategic Planning. *Bottom Line: Managing Library Finances*, 21 (1), 20-24.

This article argues that while future planning is important, it does not need to be "a product of a lengthy strategic planning process," stating that money and time can be better spent on satisfying customers than planning strategically.

Books

Nelson, S.S. (2001). *The New Planning for Results: A Streamlined Approach*. Chicago: American Library Association.

This book replaced the two-volume *Planning for Results* released by Nelson in 1998, and serves as a

guide for public libraries (though academic libraries can also glean ideas) in writing a strategic plan, complete with workforms and charts, as well as a narrative on the process.

Web sites

Indiana State Library

<http://www.in.gov/library/2813.htm>

This Web site, hosted by the Indiana State Library, contains links to Long Range Plans for several public libraries in Indiana.

New Pathways to Planning

<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/pathway/>

This Web site, from the Northeast Kansas Library System, is designed "to provide a process that could be used by small public libraries to meet a system requirement for a written library plan, including a vision statement, goals and objectives."

Strategic Planning for Results Workforms

http://www.elearnlibraries.com/workforms/strategic_planning_for_results.html

This Web site contains many of the workforms associated with the updated version of Sandra Nelson's *Planning for Results*, including goals and objectives worksheets, finding committee members, communication plans and disseminating results.

Tools for Planning

<http://in.webjunction.org/rural-webinars/articles/content/446183>

This Webinar combines long range plan "success stories" with suggestions for resources to consult and tools that have been useful to other libraries in the past.

Biography: Marissa Priddis

Marissa Priddis (theloudlibrarian@yahoo.com) is the Director of the Alexandrian Public Library in Mount Vernon.