



BROOKHAVEN
NATIONAL LABORATORY

DOE National Laboratory Libraries Coalition (NLLC)

2019 Annual Meeting

April 29-30th, 2019

SITE REPORT FOR: NREL

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Note: try not to duplicate data or information from the benchmarking report or the Working Group reports.

Budget and staffing changes – *discuss any substantial or significant changes in library budget or staffing since last annual meeting and the expected impact on your library/organization.*

- Budget: The indirect side of the lab, including overhead from across the lab, experienced a budget cut at the beginning of FY19. There are also ongoing lab-wide projects (i.e. space reconfigurations) occupying portions of the lab's budget that have otherwise been distributed to the centers. These actions have impacted the library and our ability to add new content and potentially cover our escalation needs going forward.
- Staffing: There weren't any staffing changes affecting the library in FY18.

Organizational changes – *discuss any changes in your immediate or organizational mission or management structure and the expected impact on your library/organization.*

- We have a new Group Manager, Rachel Sullivan; a new Center Director, Amy Estes; and a new Executive Director overseeing our directorate, Dave Mooney. So far, we've heard enthusiasm regarding library services from our new leadership and we've also experienced a budget cut. Our goal is to continue to educate and advocate about the value of library services to both cover normal escalation needs and avoid future cuts.

Current initiatives – *discuss significant library initiatives, accomplishments, awards or collaborations (internal or external). These can be on any topic including library operations, projects, research and development, physical space, just cool stuff, etc.*

- ICPT agreements: With assistance from NREL Legal, NREL Acquisition Services (formerly Procurement), and Carol Hoover at LANL, we completed both the Springer Nature and RSC ICPT agreements on behalf of the DOE complex.
- EZproxy: We implemented EZproxy to allow for seamless access for staff to our electronic content while working remotely.
- Reference work: We conduct research (i.e. literature searches, finding cost information, and more extensive help) to assist research staff on projects. Some examples include determining research trends in perovskite solar cells and how to appropriately communicate the findings to relevant staff in order to stay at the forefront of this research area; building a large citation library for a research project; and running a literature search and gathering testing data on 4 organic PV polymers. All these examples spanned several months and most resulted in published papers. This service is very well received throughout the lab.
- Publication metrics: We provide customized publication metrics to staff when requested. We typically use SciVal for this and have upper level management who come directly to us for this service.
- Outreach: We send out welcome emails to new employees and hold voluntary library introduction courses for them to attend. We also give a short library presentation during the official new employee orientation training. We host ‘how to get published’ workshops run by editors of journals and attend center or group meetings when possible to deliver tailored library resources presentations. We also promote our resources through announcements in our lab newsletter. Last, a librarian sits on our center’s Employee Engagement Working Group, and we are working on getting a librarian on the Circular Economy Steering Committee, a new

collaborative group of staff from across the lab working in this research area.

- Training: We seek out professional development training when possible, i.e. two librarians recently completed a Negotiations course, and another completed an R programming language course; a librarian is currently taking a Searching for Patents course, and two of our staff are currently attending ELUNA to learn more about how to effectively use our Ex Libris products.

Challenges – *discuss any issues or situations, not already mentioned above, affecting your library in the past year and how they were addressed or planned to be addressed.*

- Space constraints: the lab is growing and is expecting a significant increase in new hires. This creates a problem with physical space throughout the lab. The current initiative is to condense our work stations by converting 2 person cubes into 3 person cubes. The library has also been identified as a location for hotel space for those staff members looking for a quiet or collaborative work environment, and those staff visiting the main campus from elsewhere. New furniture and equipment have been added to encourage both quiet and collaborative work spaces, including computer terminals and docking stations for laptops, a new monitor, and new desks and seating areas. The WiFi connection in the area has also been enhanced to accommodate more traffic. To accommodate these changes, the Library staff has been asked to decrease the physical space the collection occupies. For the past year or more, we've been digitizing what items we can (i.e. lab/government technical reports), identifying those journals and books that can be purchased in electronic format, and weeding those items that are no longer relevant. We are on track to reduce the physical collection by 50%, pending requested funding. We have been denied this funding so far but will keep trying. We also relocated those journals we cannot purchase in electronic format to a storage room that is a short walk from the library and is managed by our Scientific Publishing team.

- **NWTC Library:** In late 2017, we were asked by the NWTC Center Director to close the NWTC Library to free up some space for work stations. In the Spring of 2018, we transferred the small print collection we had in the NWTC Library to the main library. We are in the process of integrating this collection into the main collection while simultaneously identifying those materials that can be weeded or purchased in electronic format. We plan to have this project completed in FY19. In addition to the loss of space, the loss of face-to-face interaction with the NWTC staff creates an outreach challenge for us.
- **Staffing:** The amount of research projects we assist with continues to grow. Hiring another reference librarian would help with the workload, but we've been told by our management that this likely won't happen.
- **Flat budget:** We were informed by our financial analyst that we will most likely see a flat budget going forward. This makes covering escalation for our existing subscriptions and adding any new content challenging.

Future initiatives – *discuss ideas, proposals or plans you may have for the immediate or strategic future of your library and the expected impact on your organization.*

- **Space:** Going forward, we will continue our physical space reduction project with a completion date of FY19.
- **Outreach:** We will continue pushing forward with outreach initiatives. We will try and think of new ways to reach staff to inform them of the library services available to them and to collaborate on research projects with them whenever possible.
- **Usage data deep dive:** We are hoping to start vigorously analyzing our usage data to determine how useful our subscriptions are to staff and to see where there are gaps and where we can make changes. We are also hoping to use this as an outreach opportunity to reach those groups who aren't heavy library users to assist with their research needs.

- Systems: We are hoping to clean up the data in our ILS system (Alma) and make our resources more easily discoverable. One example is a market reports website we host that we would like to make more user friendly.

Trends – *have you noticed anything changing, mutating, fluctuating or shifting in your library or in your organization? Changes in customer or staff habits, needs, collection use, expectations? Changes in the external information world that might affect your library or libraries in general? Please share.*

- Reference: We've been heavily promoting our research services in presentations and orientations. We've noticed an increase in the amount of research projects that staff are asking for assistance with, especially from new hires.
- Print collection: Staff are using the print collection less and less. After examining our Elsevier usage statistics, it is evident that staff are frequently trying to access older content that we have in print, but we aren't seeing those same numbers in the requests we get to scan print articles. It's possible they aren't aware this content can be physically accessed in the library, or they just can't be bothered. This trend ties in nicely with our collection digitization project.
- Library space: We've seen an increase in the amount of staff using the library space since the new furniture was added and the work stations throughout the lab have been condensed. We're hoping to see this trend continue.
- New resources: We have been receiving more and more requests for products such as BNEF and the IHS PV Module (i.e. market data). We are trying to work with groups throughout the lab to establish cost shares for these subscriptions since the library's budget can't cover all staff needs.
- External factors: More and more institutions in North America and Europe are pushing for lower subscription costs from vendors and walking away from deals when necessary. Hopefully this trend will help us all out financially in the long run.