

ACLCP Research and Publication Grant Award – Fall 2024

Millersville University award recipients:

- Michele Santamaria, Learning Design & Student Engagement Librarian
- Melissa Gold, Science Librarian
- Krista Higham, Access Services and Scholarly Communication Librarian

Contributed paper for presentation at ACRL 2025 in Minneapolis, MN:

[Institutional Change as Opportunity: Advocating for Students & Information Literacy](#)

Paper summary:

Drawing from a case study of general education reform at a mid-sized regional public university, the paper demonstrates the value of working within the library to not only respond but also to anticipate change. The paper illustrates how to leverage the library and individual librarians' social capital. To use these kinds of complex strategies at various levels of the university system then allows librarians to advocate for the kind of big picture, sustainable changes that make the difference between information literacy as a vague "nice to have" curricular competency versus an essential and scaffolded element of the curriculum. This type of curricular transformation has value from the perspective of information literacy advocacy, but the paper goes further and argues that the most significant value of this advocacy lies within the librarians' ability to be advocates for student learning in a holistic and democratically defined manner.

During the presentation, we will use our experiences with general education reform as a model to discuss how to identify strategic opportunities and partners created by a changing environment. Further, we will show how we leveraged our social capital related to committee involvement, leadership positions, professional relationships, and strength as a department to solidify our place as information literacy experts on campus. In carefully analyzing the situation and making strategic decisions, we significantly increased the library's impact on equitable information literacy instruction in the general education curriculum. As librarians we advocate for all students with no bias toward any major-based group of students. As such, we used our social capital to advocate for an equitable and consistent general education experience by proposing inclusive student learning outcomes.

Post-conference grant report:

Krista and Melissa attended the conference (Michele had to stay home sick at the last minute) and presented to around 100 attendees. Additionally, Melissa represented ACRL's Science & Technology Section at the Engagement Fair for first-time attendees, during which she met many newer science librarians. Krista and Melissa spent time in the Exhibit Hall discussing current and new resources with vendors as well as providing feedback. The opening keynote, Ruha Benjamin, and closing keynote, Saeed Jones were excellent and provoked a lot of thought about how academic libraries can better support minoritized communities through collaboration. Melissa also attended a panel on academic freedom and libraries that will impact upcoming work. Michele will be able to access the recorded presentations and posters for the next six months, as well as the open access proceedings, so she won't miss out!