

WORKING DOCUMENT

AAHSL

The Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries

Information Technology Roadmap for 2007-2008

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Introduction

A special retreat was held at the January 2007 mid-winter AAHSL Board meeting. Committee chairs met with the association's Information Technology Officer (ITO) to discuss the development of an information technology (IT) strategic plan for the association. The retreat's goals were to draft a plan on how best the association could use IT to foster its goals for the coming years.

Vision

AAHSL enhances the success of its members in advancing health through their recognized leadership in managing and utilizing the intellectual resources within and beyond the institution.

The focal point of the IT strategic plan is to recognize technology as a powerful tool to achieve association, institutional, professional and personal goals. Information technology communicates our values and supports our work. Information technology is the means by which members achieve success through innovation.

Although innovation can be achieved in several areas of library operations, those of chief concern to the association are innovation in knowledge management, improvement in the delivery of quality information services to users, and the promotion of research in the use of information to improve health. AAHSL promotes this innovation as a means of demonstrating its leadership in improving health through better information.

AAHSL fulfills this vision by sharing the IT expertise of its members and their library staff and leveraging that expertise as an association.

Values

A core value of AAHSL is collaboration and IT is seen as a bridge to collaboration. Collaboration between libraries and user groups at the local level is a goal of AAHSL members. AAHSL promotes and supports these local collaborative efforts as part of its mission. At the same time, AAHSL as an association works with peer associations to promote improved health through excellence in information access, delivery, and research.

Advances in and application of IT must be used ...

- to achieve quality services to members through effective and efficient business processes;
- to provide information to and communicate with and among members;
- as a means to educate members on IT trends; and,
- to investigate strategies for using IT to improve health information access and delivery.

Other values include:

- Timeliness of information
- Accuracy of information
- Currency of information
- Consistent, distributed approach to presenting information to our audiences
- Integration of IT applications

Goals, Objectives/Activities, Measurements

Goal 1: Serve and empower AAHSL members and organizational units through IT leadership

Leadership is defined here to mean modeling appropriate uses of IT; experimenting with new technologies; demonstrating and illustrating effective uses of new technologies; promoting members' success in implementing effective technologies at the local level.

Objectives/Activities

1. Promote successful implementations of new technologies;
2. Seek input from local library staff.
3. Develop the AAHSL web site as a forum for sharing information about IT innovations.
4. Elect and develop experiments using new technologies (e.g., new and improved communication tools, etc.). Develop occasional white papers on new technologies with emphasis on how these technologies impact academic health sciences librarianship. (Recommend as a group activity engaging not only directors but also key library staff with expertise in developing and using cutting-edge IT tools and applications).

Goal 2: Provide services that contribute to the success of the membership

Objectives/Activities

1. Assess the membership on their requirements for AAHSL portal services.
2. Develop a RFP for portal development.
3. Develop an Association institutional repository strategy (post IR evaluation by CTF; continue to explore IR feasibility).
4. Use RSS technology to pull together news feeds, blogs, lists, etc. on topics or items critical to the membership. For example, select sources related to scholarly communication and post to the web site. (A fair criticism is that list postings offer the same service. The benefit is centralization of several sources into one location for frequent or infrequent checking by a member).
5. Explore use of podcasts.
6. Maintain AAHSL Listserv.

Goal 3: Serve AAHSL members through efficient and effective business operations

Objectives/Activities

1. Develop new AAHSL portal tools.
2. Establish policies for Association archives.
3. Use IT to track, manage, analyze financial operations.
4. Work with Assessment and Statistics Committee to develop new capabilities for AAHSL statistical database.
5. Provide support for AAHSL Committees/Task Forces.

Goal 4: Responsibly manage the IT infrastructure of AAHSL

1. Review existing MOUs, contracts and other arrangements with third-party suppliers and agents.
2. Develop a MOU template for future shared activities. Develop AAHSL portal tools user policies and procedures.
3. Work with Assessment and Stats Committee re: data sharing plans and recommendations.
4. Investigate data sharing with peer associations.

Goal 5: Forge strong collaborative relationships within AAHSL organizational units and with affiliated organizations

Objectives/Activities

1. Research whether other peer associations have an ITO and if so, how this position relates to the association's board. Make recommendations to the AAHSL Board for possible modifications in its organization.
2. Investigate how IT is implemented by other peer associations.

3. Look for opportunities to use IT tools as a means of collaborating with peer associations.
4. Work with committee/task force/leaders on IT plans.
5. Working with the Education and Program Committee, consider developing an online education component to the AAHSL web site; i.e., using webcast and related technologies aimed at serving the AAHSL members and their staff.
6. Explore feasibility of working with MLA, other peer associations, and associate institutions in developing relevant content for online education.

Participants

Wayne Peay, University of Utah – Future Leadership Committee

Linda Walton, University of Iowa -- Program and Education Committee

M.J. Tooley, University of Maryland -- Charting the Future Oversight Committee

Karen Butter, University of California San Francisco -- Scholarly Communication Committee

Gary Byrd, State University of New York Buffalo -- Assessment and Statistics Committee

Michael Homan, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine – Joint Legislative Task Force and retreat chair

James Shedlock, Northwestern University – Information Technology Officer

AAHSL Board Members

Elaine R. Martin, University of Massachusetts, President

Linda Watson, University of Minnesota, President Elect

Logan Ludwig, Loyola Medical School, Past President

Ruth Riley, Secretary/Treasurer

Patricia Thibodeau, Duke University

Gary Freiburger, University of Arizona

Mary Ryan, University of Arkansas