

2023 SOCHE Library Conference

Friday, April 21, 2023 | | 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. ET | via SOCHE Zoom Platform

The ‘New Normal’: Navigating Academic Library Challenges and Changes

The Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education (SOCHE) is pleased to announce the 2023 Library Conference, a virtual event that will be held on Friday, April 21, from 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. ET. This year’s theme is “The ‘New Normal’: Navigating Academic Library Challenges and Changes.”

Higher education was in a state of flux before the pandemic struck. The events of the last two years not only exacerbated shifts that began before this global incident, but they also presented new challenges to overcome. Much has changed in the wake of the pandemic, creating a wave of transformation that is far from over. From service impacts to new threats to staff changes to budgetary challenges, everything in higher education is moving so rapidly, it can be difficult to keep up.

Join your fellow library and academic personnel on April 21 for a time of discussion and learning with colleagues from throughout the state of Ohio and beyond. Hear about the challenges your colleagues have faced and how they have been working to overcome them. Explore concurrent sessions that will focus on current trends in the academic library world. We’ll wrap up the day with a keynote presentation from renowned author Julie Todaro.

Event Program:

8:30 a.m. ET	Meeting link opens
8:30 a.m. ET	Coffee Chat and Networking Grab your favorite beverage and join us for some casual chat before the conference formally begins.
8:55 a.m. ET	Opening and Welcome Conference Host: Lajmar Anderson, Sinclair Community College
9:00 a.m. ET	Facing Challenges and Creating Opportunities: How Academic Libraries are Being Reshaped Although we have entered a new phase of the pandemic crisis where many pre-pandemic activities have resumed, impacts of the crisis continue to manifest in many ways. The pandemic has exacerbated existing struggles, surfaced hidden challenges, and created new difficulties for academic libraries to face. In order to adapt and face these challenges, libraries have had to rethink, revise, or completely reimagine how we do our work. This panel will explore some of those challenges and share how various libraries are navigating them. Moderator: Myra Justus, Cincinnati State Community & Technical College Panelists: Craig Person, University of Cincinnati; Crissy Ross, Cincinnati State Community & Technical College; Lone Damasco, University of Dayton; and Michael Wells, Wilmington College
9:45 a.m. ET	Break
10:00 a.m. ET	Concurrent Sessions (choose one at registration) • Session 1 – Balancing Act: Exploring the New Normal of Student Success Librarianship

	<p>Typical success metrics such as retention and academic achievement, while important, fail to fully capture a student's experience. This session is designed to help participants to think critically about how their idea of success has been shaped by their institution and their intersecting identities. Participants will be asked to embrace broader concepts of student success, ones which reframe the impact of the academic library on students as whole people. This session explores the new normal of student success librarianship and whether a more balanced and holistic approach allows students to achieve success on their own terms.</p> <p>Presenter: Zachary Lewis, University of Dayton Moderator: Myra Justus, Cincinnati State Community & Technical College</p> <p>• Session 2 – Building a Network: Working with Libraries to Promote Open and Affordable Course Materials</p> <p>OhioLINK has been promoting open and affordable learning since 2017. Those efforts have grown and evolved over the years as we discover what is most successful and how we can best work with libraries to network and promote open and affordable learning. We will present about OhioLINK's OER Course Redesign Minigrant program after completing two iterations of it. We will also discuss our plans to build out our statewide repository of open content and ways to work with librarians to help faculty find open and affordable content. Future plans for additional projects will also be introduced.</p> <p>Presenters: Amy Pawlowski and Anna Bendo, OhioLINK Moderator: Amanda McLellan, Wittenberg University</p> <p>• Session 3 – Navigating New Connections: Libraries Supporting College Staff</p> <p>Connecting college staff (beyond faculty) with information and resources helps keep the library top of mind, while helping staff support students. Libraries can enhance the work being done by everyone on campus, including advisors, administrative assistants, coaches, tutors, counselors, groundskeepers, administrators and more. Hear about Sinclair's experiences in connecting employees, encouraging staff working on advanced degrees, information sharing, article alerts, and so on. Bring your ideas and questions to this conversation about ways to navigate connecting college employees with the library.</p> <p>Presenter: Julie McDaniel, Sinclair Community College Moderator: John Burke, Miami University Regionals</p>
10:45 a.m. ET	Break
11:00 a.m. ET	<p>KEYNOTE: A Transformed Higher Education? Seven Things Required Now for Today's Future</p> <p>Julie Todaro, Author Former ACRL and ALA President</p> <p>Many aspects of higher education are changing, whether we (or they) like it or not. Returning to exemplary practices, adjusting existing, shifting paradigms, or creating "new" requires evidence, assessment, and a strong knowledge and application of change management and leadership techniques. Unfortunately, not all plans and changes are thoughtful, based on data, for the best or - most importantly - are driving or even supporting today's and tomorrow's student (and faculty) success. Academic libraries must strive to take leadership roles in the higher education community at large, or just "at home," to move forward with a measure of control and a mission and vision based on sound decision-making, to ensure a role for the library's information and research future.</p>
12:00 p.m. ET	Closing Comments