

Library as Research Site: The Local Value of Participating in a National Research Project

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Princeton Theological Seminary Library

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@LA_Conference #lac16



Princeton Theological Seminary



- Founded: 1812
- ~ 40 faculty, 500+ students
- Location: Princeton, New Jersey
- Library with one of the largest theological research collections in the world:
 - over 1.2 million books & other resources
 - archival treasures, incl. most complete set of Dead Sea Scroll photographs in the world
 - 2nd largest collection of Puritan writings in the United States
 - extensive Latin American theological collection

Six degrees

Master of Divinity	Master of Theology
Master of Arts	MA(TS)
M.Div./M.A. Dual	Doctor of Philosophy



New Methodologies Create New Opportunities

Ithaka S+R's 2016 Research Support Services Project on Religious Studies

First discipline study to use on-site library research teams

18 participating institutions



Support from the American Academy of Religion, the Society of Biblical Literature and the American Theological Library Association



Local Research Team Process, 2016

February

Attend Ithaca S+R
ethnographic research
training held at Butler
Library, Columbia
University



March-April

Conduct in-depth, one-on-
one, on-campus interviews
(later transcribed & coded)
with 9 faculty

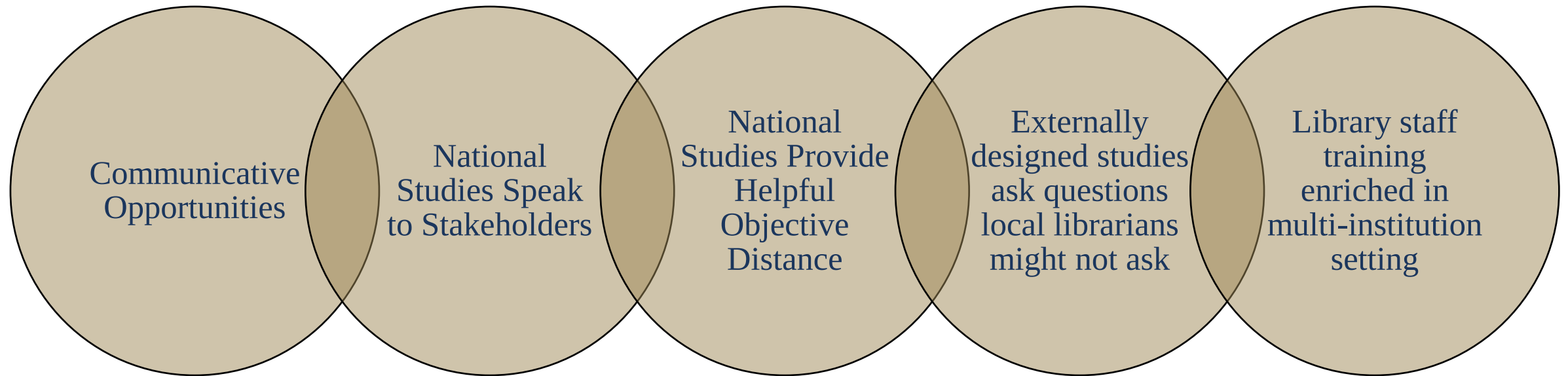


December

Publicly debut local report
(completed August 2016)
alongside Ithaca S+R
national report



Local Value of Discussions Near and Far: 5 “Early Stage” Local Benefits



Practical Implications

- ✓ Link to, customize, repurpose large scale national studies in their own context.
- ✓ Rich potential for collaborative ongoing work in assessment at the discipline level.
- ✓ Urge high profile national research projects to “build in” mechanisms for local engagement.



Thank you!

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