

# **The Value of Academic Libraries: Findings and Implications for the Profession**

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Library Assessment Conference  
2010 - Baltimore





A WIND OF CHANGE WAS SWEEPING THROUGH  
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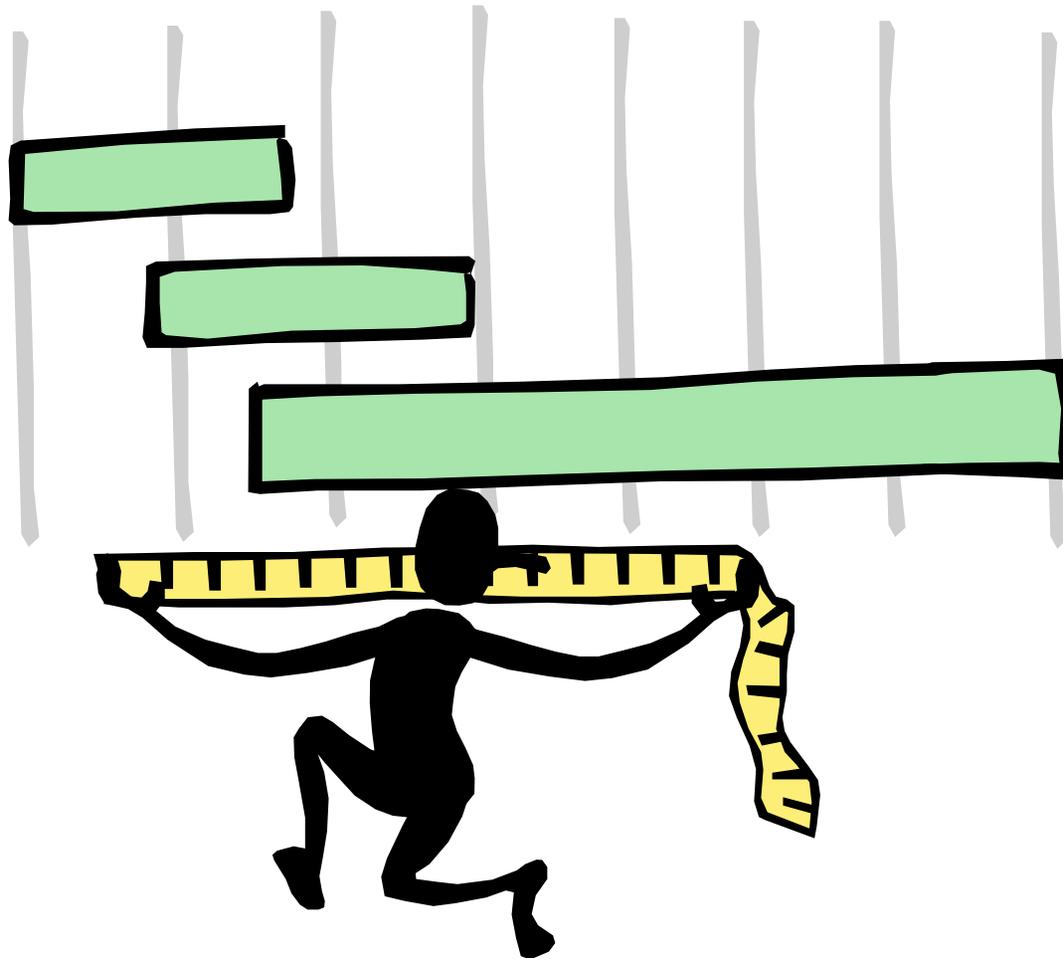
2. act estimating th

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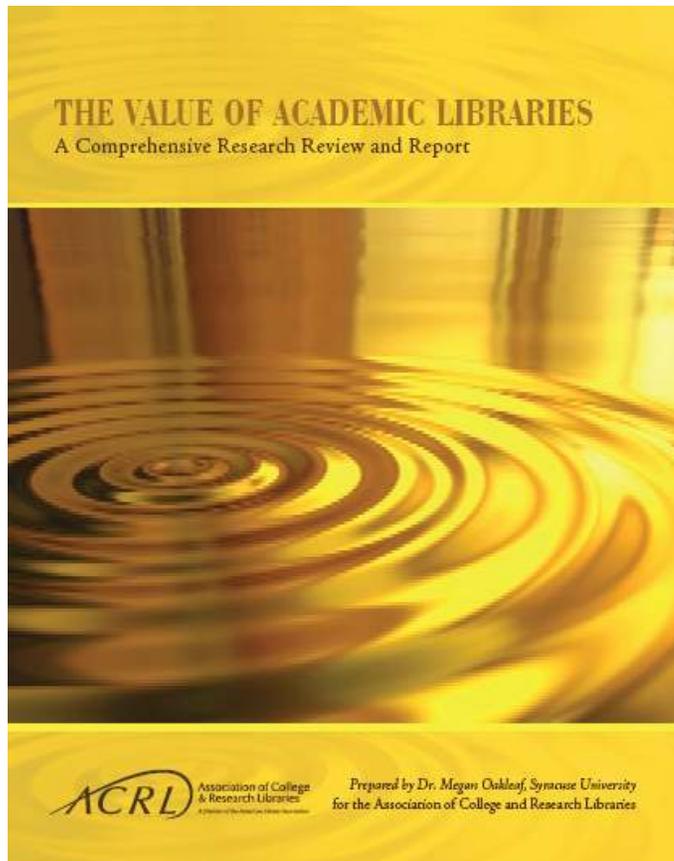
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# What's the Evidence?



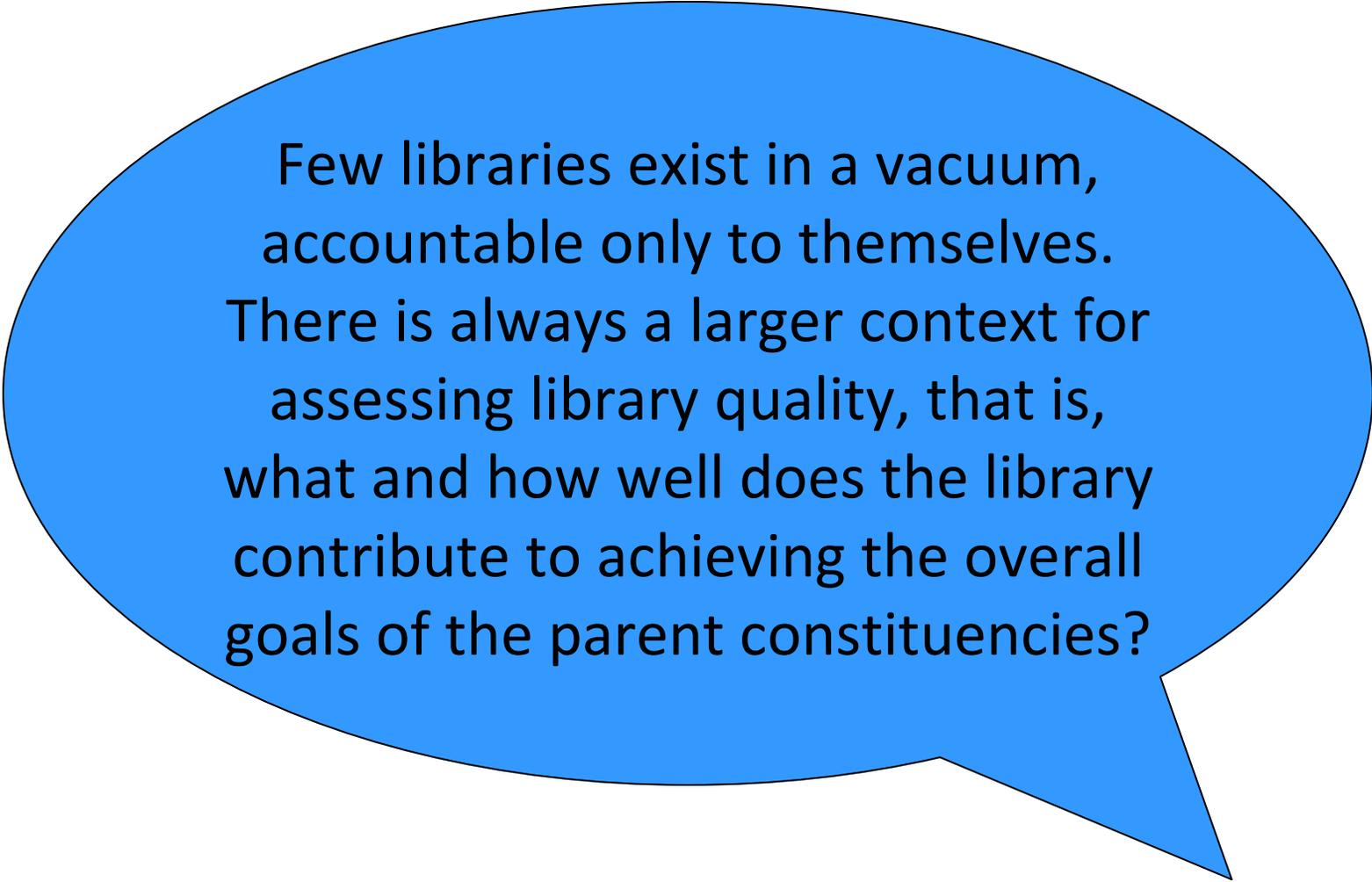
# The Value of Academic Libraries: An ACRL Initiative



- Align libraries with institutional outcomes.
- Empower libraries to carry out work locally.
- Create shared knowledge and understanding.
- Contribute to higher education assessment.

<http://www.acrl.ala.org/value/>

# The Context for Value

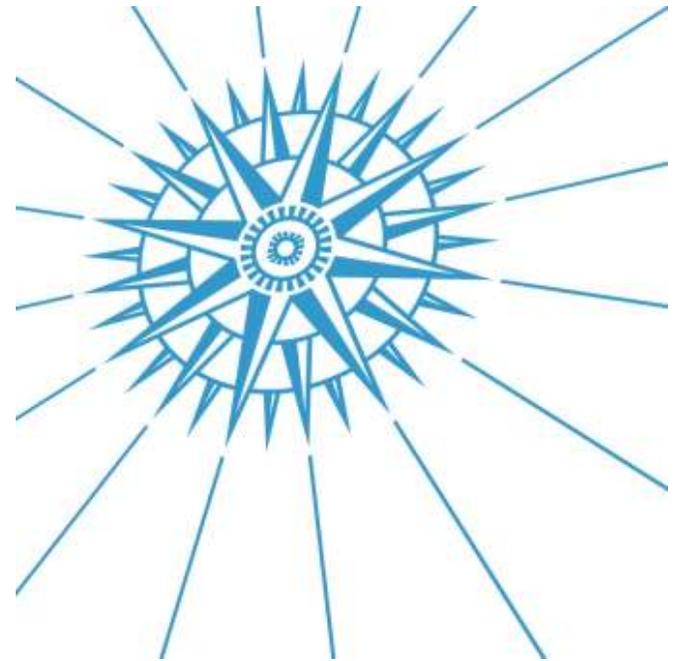


Few libraries exist in a vacuum, accountable only to themselves. There is always a larger context for assessing library quality, that is, what and how well does the library contribute to achieving the overall goals of the parent constituencies?

(Pritchard, 1996)

# Guiding Principles

- Value defined in terms of institutional, not library, goals.
- The project will identify measurable surrogates that demonstrate the library's impact on institutional goals.
- Libraries need best practices on measuring identified surrogates.
- The project should explain how the findings should inform data collection decisions of academic libraries in the future.





**Recommendations**

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- Define outcomes**
  - Create or adopt systems for assessment management**
  - Determine what libraries enables students, faculty, student affairs professionals, administrators and staff to do.**
  - Develop systems to collect data on individual library user behavior, while maintaining privacy.**
  - Record and increase library impact on student enrollment.**
  - Link libraries to improved student retention and graduation rates.**
  - Review course content, readings, reserves, and assignments.**
  - Document and augment library advancement of student experiences, attitudes, and perceptions of quality.**
  - Track and increase library contributions to faculty research productivity.**
  - Contribute to investigate library impact on faculty grant proposals and funding, a means of generating institutional income.**
  - Demonstrate and improve library support of faculty teaching.**
  - Create library assessment plans.**
  - Promote and participate in professional development.**
  - Mobilize library administrators.**
  - Leverage library professional associations.**

**Define  
outcomes.**

*A B C*

**Use existing data.**



**Develop systems  
to collect data on individual  
library user behavior, while  
maintaining privacy.**



# Research Agenda:

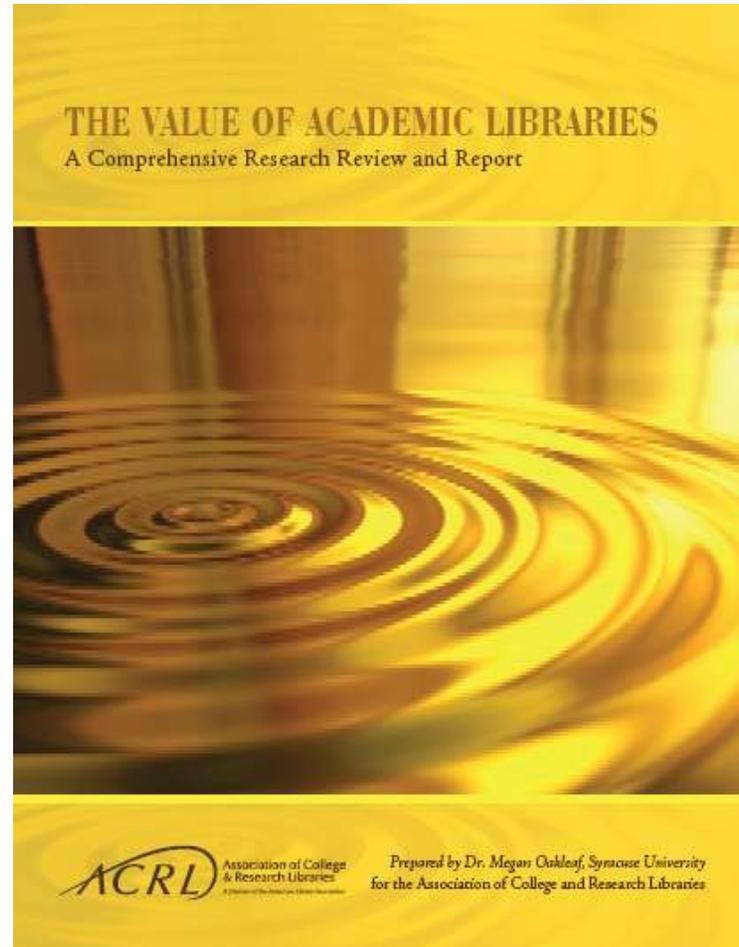
The Library contributes to ...

- student enrollment
- student retention and graduation rates
- student success
- student achievement
- student learning
- student experience

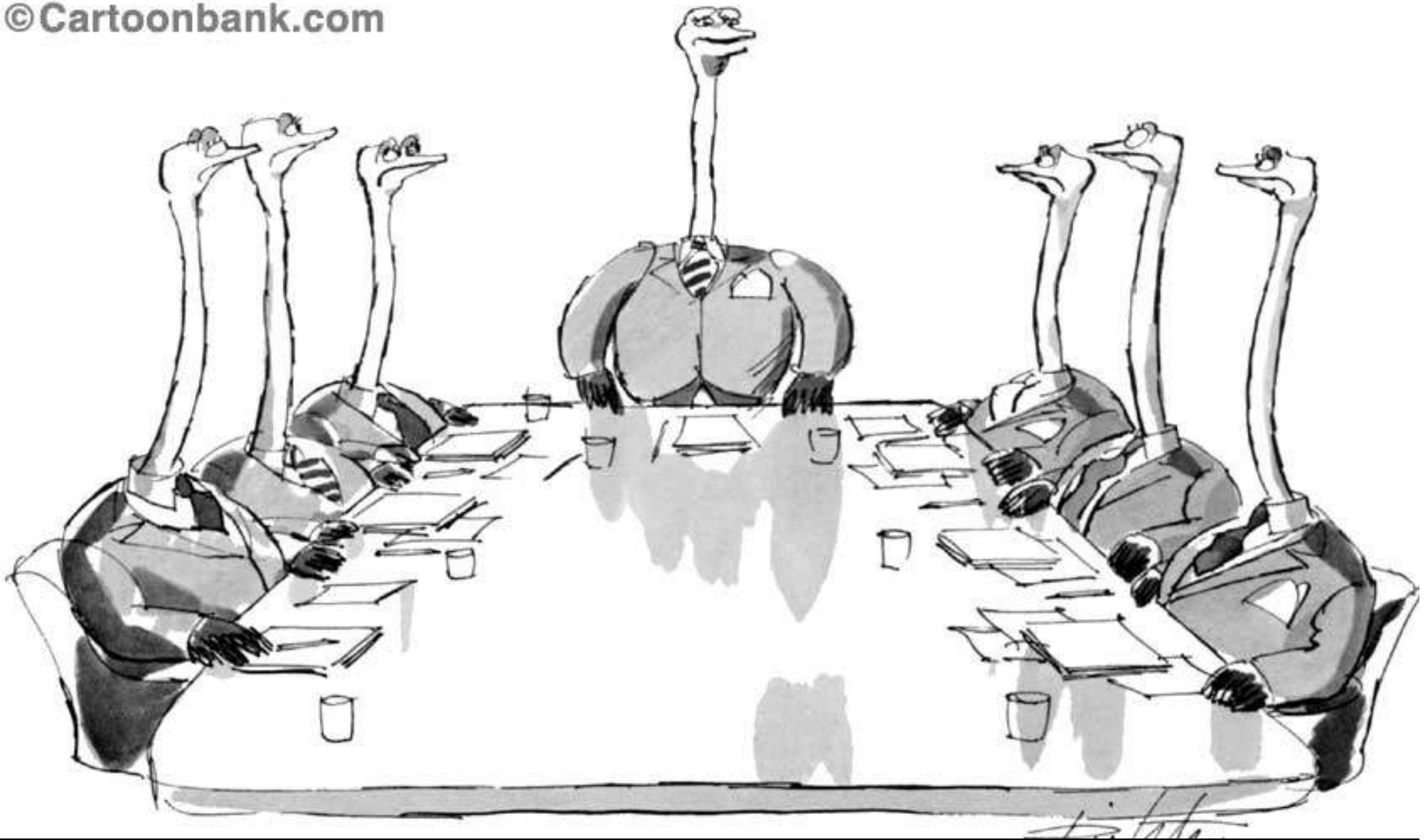


- faculty research productivity
- faculty grant proposals and funding
- faculty teaching
- overall institutional reputation or prestige

# What Comes After the Report?



Freely available online: <http://www.acrl.ala.org/value/>



*“The motion has been made and seconded that we stick our heads in the sand.”*

# Report complemented by ...

- *Futures Thinking for Academic Librarians: Higher Education in 2025* (June 2010) –  
<http://www.acrl.org/futures>
- *Top Ten Trends in Academic Libraries* (June 2010) –  
<http://crln.acrl.org/content/71/6/286.full>
- *Environmental Scan*  
(forthcoming April 2011)



# Next Steps for ACRL

- Professional Development

- OnPoint Chat

- Upcoming Presentations

- ([http://www.acrl.ala.org/value/?page\\_id=39Publications](http://www.acrl.ala.org/value/?page_id=39Publications))

- Publications

- Toolkit

- (<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/issues/value/valueofacademiclibrariestoolkit.cfm>)

- Revised *Standards for Academic Libraries in Higher Education* (in process)

- Research

- Member Services



Academic

resources  
Research

Information

library

librarians

**thank you  
questions  
comments**

impact learning

student

value

students

data

information

services

Libraries

libraries  
assessment

outcomes

research

Assessment

institutional

faculty academic