ADDITIONAL DETAILS FOR 2018-19 LIBRARIES FELLOWS PROJECTS - *November 2018*

1.   ADOPT OPEN TEXTBOOKS/EDUCATION RESOURCES

In seeking to lessen students' expenditures for textbooks and to increase retention and successful course completion, Drexel University Libraries joined the Open Textbook Network (OTN) in summer 2018. The OTN, based at The University of Minnesota, promotes access, affordability, and student success through the use of open textbooks. Membership in the OTN provides access to a suite of tools and resources with which to promote use and creation of open educational resources. The Libraries is also engaged in regional efforts to promote open education, taking advantage of the expertise and experience of academic colleagues who have been working in this space for several years.

The Libraries will host two open textbook workshops in December 2018. Using information acquired in the workshop and the resources of the OTN, along with their own disciplinary and pedagogical expertise, Fellows will deeply explore, evaluate, and promote open education resources to the Drexel faculty community.

Examples of deliverables for this Libraries Fellowship include the following:

- Write and submit a published review of a book included in the Open Textbook Library.
- Prepare and deliver a workshop or presentation about open educational materials for faculty within a specific discipline or academic unit
- Develop or adapt test measures to assess impact of use of open textbook or Libraries' currently licensed resources on teaching practices and/or learning outcomes
- Redesign existing course reliant on traditional textbook to one reliant on open text and/or materials currently licensed by Libraries for summer or fall 2019.

2.   EXPLORE AND CRITQUE ESPLORO

The Libraries is working to strengthen Drexel's connections to scholarship, specifically to improve availability of its research outputs that will shape future research. Libraries staff have begun to engage with professional groups and campus colleagues to understand and assess challenges and requirements for researchers to manage their data and publications outputs. Now, the Libraries is leading campus efforts to improve infrastructure for faculty convenience in preparing and depositing research data in repositories, as well as utilizing global discovery systems to identify and locate Drexel contributions.

The Libraries has the opportunity to influence a major international software company, Ex Libris, to complete development of a research services platform called Esploro. The Libraries has a contract agreement to field test a prototype of Esploro and share insights for improvements. We seek several faculty, graduate students and/or research staff who are willing to apply their experiences in producing and managing research output to participate in this critique during winter and spring terms.

Deliverables for this Fellowship will entail:

- Participating in orientation to the Esploro application
- Using Esploro in a protected "sandbox setting" to test its features and support
- Communicating honest and concise insights and improvement suggestions to the Libraries project manager, or as appropriate, to the Ex Libris project manager

3.   STRENGTEN DREXEL UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES STAFF COMMUNICATION SKILLS

With the explosion of communication venues, varying degrees of receptivity to messaging among generations of clients, and evolving knowledge about effective practices, the Libraries will benefit from strategic communications training. We seek an expert teaching Fellow to provide Libraries staff training and development of skills in writing, speaking, and utilizing different marketing and presentation channels. Any Drexel University faculty member is eligible to apply.

The following are desired learning outcomes for participating Libraries staff. After participation in a successful training, staff will be able to:

- Incorporate habits of proactive and entrepreneurial strategic communications into normal workflows.
- Preconize, select & share essential evidence (information and data) about their activities and expertise for use in promotion of the Libraries' strategic initiatives.
- Articulate messages to diverse audiences (e.g. external VIPs and campus learners) that inspire learning, clarify practices and market the Libraries.

We seek innovative adult learning approaches, such as workshops, communications tool kits, and illustrative successful practices used in academic settings.