Plan for Excellence Activity Reporting

Value of Academic Libraries
Goal: Academic libraries demonstrate alignment with and impact on institutional outcomes.

2. Promote the impact and value of academic and research libraries to the higher education community.
In Fall 2015, we hosted our annual series of brown bag lunch discussions at six separate institutions across our membership, under the theme “Marketing Library Services.” These provided opportunities for library professionals across our region to exchange their experiences and ideas for promoting and communicating the value of their libraries to their respective communities. Summaries of these discussions were also further distributed to our membership in our following Spring 2016 newsletter.

3. Build on Assessment in Action to expand community of practice and professional development opportunities.
We offered several professional development opportunities to our members this past year. In addition to the aforementioned brown bags, during Spring 2016, our annual conference, “Digital Scholarship,” provided another venue for our members, as well as library professionals from outside our region, to gather and discuss issues related to digital humanities, linked data, and open access, among other related topics. Our keynote speakers included Marisa Parham (Professor of English at Amherst College and Director of the Five College Digital Humanities Project), Amber Billey (Metadata Librarian at Columbia University), and Robin Davis (Emerging Technologies and Distance Service Librarian at John Jay College of Criminal Justice). Our conference also included a number of breakout sessions, poster sessions, and lightning rounds, giving attendees multiple formats in which to explore and engage with each other on a range of topics. Other chapter events this past year included two sold-out Digital POWRR fall workshops, “From Theory to Action: A Pragmatic Approach to Digital Preservation Strategies and Tools” (co-sponsored with the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference), as well as a spring brown bag discussion event (co-sponsored with the Northern New York Library Network) on instruction, which was hosted by one of our member libraries as a follow-up to their fall brown bag discussion.

Student Learning
Goal: Advance innovative practices and environments that transform student learning.
4. Articulate and advocate for the role of librarians in setting, achieving, and measuring institutional student learning outcomes.

We share information about various innovative and instructional practices through mediums such as our bi-annual newsletter (http://enyacrl.org/site/newsletter-archive). For instance, our Fall 2016 newsletter included an article from Hamilton College on their recently piloted research tutoring program, which helped to supplement their information literacy instruction and outreach across campus, as well as an article from CUNY Hunter College on the creation of an instruction menu to help structure and assess student learning based on the tenets of the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy in Higher Education. Additionally, our Spring 2016 newsletter included an article from Mount Saint Mary College on their work developing online flipped classroom modules in order to integrate more information literacy instruction within their first year experience program.

Research and Scholarly Environment
Goal: Librarians accelerate the transition to more open and equitable systems of scholarship.

1. Increase the ways ACRL is an advocate and model for open dissemination and evaluation practices.

As a chapter of ACRL, ENY/ACRL has consistently sent our chapter president (or other board representative) to attend the Chapter Council meetings at ALA Midwinter and ALA Annual, both to obtain information on national ACRL’s latest news to communicate back to our board and membership, as well as to actively contribute our own insights to other fellow chapter leaders.

2. Enhance members’ capacity to address issues related to scholarly communication, including but not limited to data management, library publishing, open access, and digital scholarship.

Our aforementioned Spring Conference on digital scholarship is one prime example of our engagement in discussions on such issues. As noted earlier, its individual sessions examined many of these topics. We also regularly monitor and promote our member libraries’ other events and initiatives on these fronts, including advertising a University at Albany spring workshop on audio digitization for preservation and access.

New Roles and Changing Landscapes
Goal: Academic and research library workforce effectively navigates change in higher education environments.

1. Deepen ACRL’s advocacy and support for a full range of information professionals.

Our chapter continues to monitor and distribute information to our membership on local and national advocacy issues, including circulating information about getting involved in New York’s Library Advocacy Day, notes from the New York Library Association’s legislative sessions, and any legislative priority updates emerging from the national ACRL organization.
Enabling Programs and Services

Publications
In addition to adding content to our chapter website (http://enyacrl.org), we publish a biannual membership newsletter, which includes chapter announcements, articles on our individual members’ various activities and initiatives, as well as general updates from our member institutions.

Member Engagement
We maintain an active membership listserv, which all members can use for distributing not only chapter news and local announcements, but also information from other regional chapters and library councils, state library associations, and the ACRL national organization that may be of interest. We also maintain a chapter Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/enyacrl) and Twitter account (@enyacrl) to virtually connect with our membership and beyond. Our Twitter account in particular has been used to live-tweet commentaries from our annual conference.