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The Public Purposes of Libraries: Innovation and Impact Through Service Learning

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The Public Purposes of Libraries: Innovation and Impact Through Service Learning

JENNIFER NUTEFALL

SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

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University
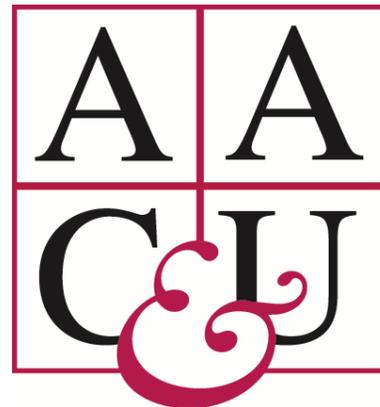Library

What is service learning?

In these programs, field-based "experiential learning" with community partners is an instructional strategy—and often a required part of the course. The idea is to give students direct experience with issues they are studying in the curriculum and with ongoing efforts to analyze and solve problems in the community. A key element in these programs is the opportunity students have to both **apply what they are learning in real-world settings** and **reflect in a classroom setting on their service experiences**. These programs model the idea that giving something back to the community is an important college outcome, and that **working with community partners is good preparation for citizenship, work, and life**. (AAC&U, 2008)

Why is it important?

High impact educational practices
- AAC&U identified ten high-impact practices
- Increase rates of student retention and student engagement

Examples of partnerships

Examples of partnerships

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Sociology 30: Self, Community, and Society

Partnership - SCU

Librarian: Nicole Branch

Three workshops focused on finding and using data
- Session 1- Searching is Strategic: Self (school & community)
- Session 2- Authority is Constructed & Contextual: Placement site (school & community)
- Session 3- Information Has Value: Conditions & assets

SOCI 30: Self, Community, and Society (Nichols): Home

Search this Guide   Search

Research guide for the students in SOCI 30

| Home | September 30, 2016- School & Community | October 24, 2016- Placement Community | October 26, 2016- Issue Areas | Find Articles |

| Searching Tips | Class Slides |

(The Educated) Self, Community and Society

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Partnership - SCU

Searching is Strategic
- Imagining data sources
- Navigating census data
- Navigating school data

Authority is Constructed & Contextual
- Critiquing data & sources
- Navigating census & school data

Information Has Value
- Conditions/needs (health, transportation, employment, etc.)
- Community assets (people, places, characteristics, etc.)
- Independent exploration

Santa Clara University Library

Examples of partnerships

University of Michigan
Library Student Mini-Grants

Partnership - UMich

Grants of up to $1,000 are awarded to students to support innovative and collaborative projects

Projects must strengthen community partnerships, enhance global scholarship, and/or advocate for diversity and inclusion

74 projects have been funded

An end-of-year symposium gave the students an opportunity to present posters on their work

https://engage.lib.umich.edu/mini-grants/

Librarian: Amanda Peters

Examples of partnerships

American University

Center for Community Engagement & Service

Partnership - AU

Librarians Alex Hodges (now at Harvard) and Olivia Ivey

Faculty Fellows Institute
- Intercultural communication training
- Instructional design support
- Community site visits
- Information literacy integration work
- Cohort engagement

Example of partnerships

University of Montana

Sociology 442 – Service Learning

Partnership – U of Montana

Librarian: Megan Stark

Assignment on refugee resettlement in Missoula, MT

- The scholarly literature, accessed via traditional searching methods, prepared students to approach this issue with broad understanding in an academic way.
- Utilizing community information, accessed via more novel searching methods, augmented students' broad understanding with nuance and a local focus.

Partnership – U of Montana

Integrating and **citing community information** alongside academic information requires instructional modeling, sharing examples and rewarding students for work done well.

Once academic libraries actively **partner with our communities** to highlight the value their data brings to our students we might begin to ask how we could help make it easier to find and use.

Academic librarians could **refine our collection** assessment tools beyond peer-to-peer comparisons to **capture and promote the unique local information** available in our communities.

Our general collections should contain community knowledge because of its legitimate research value for students.

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Colloquium on Libraries & Service Learning

The Colloquium on Libraries & Service Learning

Date: August 9-10, 2018 at American University in Washington, DC

Theme: Critically engaged librarianship: Exploring service learning and community involvement

Website: https://scholarcommons.scu.edu/libraries-and-service-learning/2018/

CFP: Coming next week!

Twitter: @CLSL2018

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Engaged library listserv

The listserv provides an opportunity for participants to engage in the sharing of research, ideas, perspectives, and best practices in library engagement with service learning.

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In the subject line of your message, type in: **subscribe engagedlibrary-l Firstname Lastname**

Leave the message body blank.

Questions?