

Title

Doing More with Less; the MU Skeleton Crew

Session description

This presentation will address the budgetary problems libraries are facing, past and present, and the ways in which Marshall University Libraries are dealing with myriad issues that affect library services. We are... the MU Skeleton Crew.

Abstract

Retirements and budgetary issues has lead Marshall University Libraries to face severe shortages of service professional and faculty librarian positions. Over the years MU libraries has dealt with losing or having these positions frozen. This is not a unique problem, but one that many institutions are facing. Marshall University Libraries needed to reinvent their work structure and relationships. Since splitting from Information Technology, our department had the opportunity to reinvent our place in the university community and keep up with the ever-changing library environment. Seeing this as an opportunity for change and new partnerships the library faculty and staff at Marshall University merged and mingled library departments in ways that streamlined services and provided staff to be cross-trained and integrated to provide the University with more efficient service and hopefully more abundant services. Merging the reference services team and the circulation team into the Access Services team was the first step in providing better and more dynamic service in the face of a smaller budget and fewer employees. Reorganization of the physical library building itself presented challenges that also provided the Library team an opportunity to look at the library communal areas differently and create a better physical space for their students and faculty while dealing with less actual open common space. This presentation will invite participants to engage with the presenters on how they are also dealing with the expectation of providing more or equal services with less support.