Fiscal Year 2021 CARLI Research Funding Program -- Proposal

Zotero promotion and support: promote best practices and enable integration.

Project title:
Zotero promotion and support: promote best practices and enable integration.

Description of the proposed research project including methodology and scope:
To provide a survey of current Zotero use, to develop a web site of supporting material to promote the tool (posters, technical support, tutorials), and to capture any increase in use and/or testimonials of individual use and curriculum integrated experiences.

Work plan for accomplishing this project:
Distribute an initial survey of current use and support models, to develop documentation for the promotion of the tool, and to provide a follow-up survey to demonstrate best practices, adoption, and testimonials by users.

Projected outcomes in support of the CARLI Strategic Priorities:
To provide a clearinghouse of expertise and support materials, and coordinate the assessment of the adoption of this important information fluency tool that advances user skills from discovery to Knowledge Management.

The effort relates to the following priorities

ENCOURAGE INNOVATION IN SKILLS, SERVICES, AND PROGRAMS, IN ALL ASPECTS OF CARLI LIBRARIES

- Connect institutions that have similar interests/needs by providing opportunities for interaction and collaboration

   and

ENHANCE COLLABORATION AMONG LIBRARIES BY IDENTIFYING, NURTURING, AND SUPPORTING SERVICES AND PROGRAMS THAT CAN BEST BE PROVIDED AT SCALE

- Provide mechanisms for group collaboration; identify and leverage model programs, initiatives, and ideas

Evaluation plan:
To implement a follow-up survey recording any increase in adoption of the tool, to develop a clearinghouse of best practices documentation, and the monitoring of a newly created online support community (either on a CARLI server or on the diigo platform).

Statement describing how this project fits into the existing literature:
Zotero is a powerful knowledge management tool that expands user skills from traditional citation management into a more robust knowledge management suite of tools. While Zotero is becoming a recognized tool supported by some libraries, there are no articles about a strategic support model coordinated by a library consortium. CARLI can take a lead role in demonstrating how a consortium can effectively promote proactive best practices.

Statement outlining how this project will benefit the Illinois library community and the broader profession:
This project will result in a coordinated network support model sharing best practices, and the creation of an online community for further explorations.

Dissemination plan for how the results of the project will be shared:
We will distribute posters and online tutorials, distribute survey results leading to future developments, and develop and sustain an online support community.

Name and complete contact information for the primary project liaison:

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Library Director
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SUPPORTING MATERIAL

A brief statement by the Governing Member Library Director or Dean in support of the project proposal.
This project would provide the structure for a timely state-wide effort to expand strategic support for this important tool.

A detailed budget.

Production costs for posters	$1,000
Software and production expertise for online tutorials	$1,000
Travel for site visits	$500
One workgroup session for design work/Focus Group	$500
TOTAL =	$3,000

An abstract (200 words maximum).

This initiative will provide a strategic support model for CARLI members to share expertise, materials, and assessment of the Zotero knowledge management software. It will provide proactive and coordinated exploration for the adoption of this important tool within the library, within the classroom, and in individual work spaces. It will integrate this personal information tool into our expanding suite of data handling tools.

A timeline targeting dates for major activities, deliverables, and stakeholder involvement as appropriate.
3 months = distribute survey and hold focus groups.
3 months = design promotion services, materials, and an online clearinghouse and community.
3 months = rollout of materials and population of the online community.
3 months = for follow-up survey and recording of adoption and integrated efforts.