

**An Early Look: Survey of International Students at CARLI Institutions: services, outreach and staff
CARLI Annual Meeting 10/30/2014**

With the current population of international students and increasing numbers forecasted for the future, academic libraries have an interest in understanding the unique needs of these scholars. Many institutions have adopted both accepted and uncommon paths to providing services and treated the foreign-born as a single homogeneous group, when in reality the diversity of international students can require distinctive and varied programs and services. Librarians' primary interaction with international students is to educate them about library services in general, but we can also address crucial topics for academics such as open access, collaborative and open collections, copyrights, and intellectual rights and ownership.

Using a CARLI research grant, this is an opportune time for us to study this issue. The purpose of our survey is to identify current services, positions and practices that CARLI member libraries have developed to identify needs and expand services as they seek to fulfill the educational or research requirements of international students. We hope the survey results will illustrate and share cases of best practices developed, and will also establish if there is a shifting focus in how libraries reach out to, and involve the international community they serve.

Some CARLI institutions have higher percentages of international students in attendance and have been developing services over the years to meet the needs of this segment of the campus population. Other schools are just now seeing the increasing numbers of students and are wondering how to serve them. With the current level of international students already being served, we anticipate this survey, its results, and the practices revealed will be just-in-time information for Illinois academic institutions, and for academic institutions across the country.

More information about the international students attending, working or using collections at academic institutions will allow CARLI libraries to transform themselves in the present information environment, while positioning themselves for the future. Academic libraries have a unique opportunity with these international scholars, who will one day return to their home countries armed with new knowledge and practices that will promote collaborative research, encourage preservation, and create new collections for building partnerships and expanding research.

Invitation to Participate

If your library would be interested in participating in the next phase of our research, we will be scheduling focus groups around the state with library staff at CARLI institutions. A few libraries have already agreed to participate, but a few more would enrich the data and provide more examples of best practices. For more information or to be added to our scheduled focus groups, contact the authors at siscisos@gmail.com

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