

# Research Matters!

## Part 2: Getting Started and Going Deeper

Session 1804

Saturday February 2, 2013



## The Big Question: *Why* Does Research Matter?

In this session we're going to put our heads together to explore this big question. We will help you organize yourselves into table groups, according to your particular research interest.

### 1. The Research Map: What Does Research Mean to You?

Work in your group to create your own map of the research process. Your map may be an island, a country, a city – or it could be something less geographically specific like a farm, an ecosystem, a subway system – whatever captures your collective imagination. By coming up with a more conceptual, metaphorical map, we want to help you think about what research means to you. What are the intellectual, emotional, or even physical aspects of research? What are the challenges that you face? What are the opportunities that you find along the way? Think “out of the box” when creating your map. Identify and label your group’s concept of the most important steps or aspects of the research process.



#### Be Creative!

Visit our supplies table for everything you need to create your research map.

#### Questions to consider as you build your map:

- What is the most confusing / difficult part?
- What is the most rewarding part?
- What are the challenges associated with each part?
- What parts of research take the longest to complete and are the most complex?
- Where would you put yourself on your group’s Research Map?

**Look on the reverse of this page for some research topic idea starters.**

We’ll give you about 30 minutes to construct your map, and then we’ll come back together to share our ideas.

### 2. Pause and Reflect

In your groups, think about and discuss *why* research matters.

- What will you take away from this session?
- How will you use this to contribute to your institution?
- Can you contribute more broadly to the profession with what you learn?

## Super Saturday – Super Conference 2013

### Research Matters Part 2: Getting Started and Going Deeper

You may find it helpful to use a specific research topic or project as you create your map. Use a research question from someone at your table, or select one from the list provided below.

#### Collections

- Cooperative purchasing and shared collections between and among libraries
- Digitization of local collections and its impact on scholarship in the library
- Efficiencies achieved through consortium/consortia affiliation
- Value and ongoing usefulness of book collections in the library in face of trends toward electronic collections

#### Instruction

- Evaluating the effectiveness of bibliographic instruction with a focus on the student and/or teacher
- Libraries and life-long learning: what this means and steps to take to bring about
- Literacy programs in the library
- Effectiveness of a particular instructional model for a partnered inquiry and research unit in the school library
- Effectiveness of particular diagnostic and formative assessment strategies in an inquiry learning cycle
- Effectiveness of using online social technology as a learning framework

#### Reference Services

- Changing nature of reference questions in type and number
- Virtual reference: what it is, how to do it, examples, types of questions

#### Library Spaces

- Community's perception of the library as a hospitable environment for reading, study, and research
- Changing nature of library space requirements to meet user and collection requirements
- Renovating the library specifically to enrich its atmosphere to attract users

#### Management

- Cost or time study of library programs, services, and collections, including description of the methodology and outcomes at your library
- Measuring the quality of library services
- Fund raising and development programs for libraries
- Marketing of library services, i.e., positioning the library as a destination for research, learning, and friends
- Survey of students and faculty as part of a quality assessment program

#### User Needs

- Impact of demographic and cultural changes on library services
- Adaptive equipment technology for supporting accessibility in the library
- Library services for disabled persons: facilities, equipment, funding, staffing
- Library services in a linguistically diverse community
- Role of the library as an information resource in promoting human rights

#### Technology

- Acquisition and deployment of technology in the library environment
- Advances in search engine technology and their impacts on libraries
- Core technology and/or emerging technology trends in the library environment
- Value and importance of library websites and importance to be as simple as Google to navigate
- Value or significance of remote access to the library's electronic resources (academic, municipal, public libraries)

#### Topics adapted from:

Hafner, A. 2010. *Suggested Topics for Library Science Research and Publication*.

Retrieved from <http://www.bs.u.edu/libraries/ahafner/awh-th-researchtopics.htm>