Reinventing Ourselves: Benchmarking the New Roles of Librarians Working in Canada’s Research-Intensive Universities

Ada Ducas (University of Manitoba); Nicole Michaud-Oystryk (University of Manitoba)

Changes in higher education, the shifting research and scholarly landscape, and advances in technology are transforming the academic library profession. New functions, such as data management, bibliometrics, digital preservation, online teaching, and user-centred design, are increasingly becoming part of the academic librarian’s duties. A survey, distributed to approximately 750 academic librarians working in Canada’s U15 university libraries, was conducted to explore their new and emerging roles. The study focused on research support, teaching and learning support, digital scholarship, user experience, and scholarly communication. The presentation will report on the scope and nature of the new roles that are being introduced in academic libraries and the skills required to provide the new services. Librarians’ job satisfaction and their perceived impact on the academic enterprise will also be discussed. The survey results have the potential of being of benefit to and of being applied by all Canadian post-secondary libraries.