

ACRL DLS Strategic Plan 2018-2021
Adopted by the DLS Executive Committee June 24, 2018.

Overview:

The draft Strategic Plan was created with guidance and information from the ACRL DLS Strategic Plan 2013-2016, the Strategic Plan Survey Report March 2018, and the DLS 2018 Strategic Planning Focus Group Notes. The plan was adopted by the Executive Committee, at their meeting held on June 24, 2018, during the 2018 ALA Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Review:

The Strategic Plan will be reviewed annually and revised every three years.

Section Mission Statement:

The Mission of the Distance Learning Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) is to provide leadership in promoting and supporting the development and delivery of library services for distance learning populations in higher education.

Core Section Values:

Distance Learning Section is committed to:

- Leadership in the area of distance and online library services including the creation and promotion of the ACRL Standards for Distance Library Services
- Member support through services, resources, and professional development
- Support to libraries and librarians serving distance and online learning populations through services, resources, and professional development

The plan is divided into five goals: research; leadership; communication and promotion; professional development; and collaboration and partnerships. The goals are interrelated and build on the Section's previous activities.

Goal I. Research

Strategic Initiative: The Distance Learning Section will address the major forces affecting distance and online learning library services. Activities of the section will reflect the environmental forces that affect its future and create changes, developments, and trends to its external environment.

Objective 1: Identify or develop resources and tools that benefit the distance and online library services community

- Possible action items that relate to this goal:
 - Building or locating appropriate assessment tools, maintaining a bibliography of best resources, investigating available resources and tools

Objective 2: Identify current trends, issues, data that reflect changes, developments, and trends in the external environment related to distance and online library services

- Possible action items that relate to this goal:
 - Conducting an environmental scan, surveying the membership or specific constituencies (instruction librarians, resource sharing librarians)

Objective 3: Initiate projects, research studies, ad hoc committees, and open hearings that promote best practices and contribute to the knowledge base in distance and online learning library services.

- Possible action items that relate to this goal:
 - Review the ACRL Standards for Distance Learning Library Services
 - Develop planning templates for new services and innovative practices

Goal II. Leadership

Strategic Initiative: The Distance Learning Section is the acknowledged leader in developing and articulating effective practices in distance and online learning library services, including all higher education programs designated as off-campus, extended campus, distance/hybrid education, or distributed education

Objective 1: Define best practices and plans in distance and online learning library services

- Possible action items that relate to this goal:
 - Revise and assess the ACRL Standards for Distance Learning Library Services

Objective 2: Become the leading source for locating best resources and tools on distance and online library services

- Possible action items that relate to this goal:
 - Develop resource guides for distance and online learning library services

Objective 3: Recognize contributions to the profession and distance and online library services

- Possible action items that relate to this goal:
 - Acknowledging outstanding achievements in service and research with awards
 - Addition: Highlight and publicize research in distance learning librarianship

Goal III. Communication & Promotion

Strategic Initiative: The Distance Learning Section provides timely, accurate, and useful information related to distance and online library services. This includes promoting and communicating the activities and resources of the Distance Library Section to librarians within individual institutions, regional accreditation associations, directors of state libraries,

library/information science schools, and to professional library and higher education associations and institutions.

Objective 1: Communicate and promote the activities and resources of the committee to the distance and online library community

- Possible action items that relate to this goal:
 - Maintain and strive to improve communication channels such as the Website, listservs, newsletter, and social networking tools
 - Promote and distribute the ACRL Standards for Distance Learning Library Services

Objective 2: Provide member support services to promote networking and communication

- Possible action items that relate to this goal:
 - Encourage an increased use of the DLS listserv in order to promote communication within the distance and online learning field.
 - Wide distribution of DLS literature

Objective 3: Actively recruit new members for the section and into the profession

- Possible action items that relate to this goal:
 - Membership drives
 - Active participation in ACRL membership activities
 - Socials at conferences

Objective 4: Increasing visibility of the section beyond ALA through communication of section activities to non-ALA associations

- Possible action items that relate to this goal:
 - Develop relationships with associations such as AAHE, Distance Learning Association, EduCause

Goal IV: Professional Development

Strategic Initiative: Distance Learning Section committees will facilitate the development and sharing of expertise, practice, resources and research in distance and online learning library services among librarians, administrators, teaching faculty, instructional team members, and students, both individually and as members of professional groups and associations.

Objective 1: Develop conference programs exploring the scope, issues, and research of distance and online learning library services.

- Possible action items that relate to this goal:
 - Host discussion groups, interest groups, program planning and events at ALA and DLS conferences

Objective 2: Offer professional development and continuing education opportunities for librarians and libraries who have or plan to implement services for distance and online learners.

- Possible action items that relate to this goal:
 - Hosting webinars and workshops
 - Programs at regional library conferences

Objective 3: Provide effective educational and consulting services and resources utilizing the knowledge and leadership skill of DLS members

- Possible action items that relate to this goal:
 - Offering mentoring and intern programs

Goal V: Collaboration and Partnerships

Strategic Initiative: The Distance Learning Section strives to build partnerships within ALA and beyond to position the section as a leader in distance and online learning library services.

Objective 1: Identify collaborative partners within ACRL and ALA and establish close working relationships with these groups.

- Possible action items that relate to this goal:
 - Identify collaborative partners within ACRL and ALA for future joint projects
 - Identify and participate in activities of other ACRL sections, state, and regional chapters of ACRL and divisions of ALA
 - Identify appropriate and participate in joint pre-conference and conference programs

Objective 2: Increase visibility of the Section beyond ALA through communication of section activities to non-ALA associations

- Possible action items that relate to this goal:
 - Identify associations outside the library profession for collaboration and participation in their activities (e.g., AAHE, Distance Learning Association, EduCause)