Strategies for Library Mergers & Centralizing Library Services

Janet Hobbs
Linda Schwartz
Patricia Ulmer
Heather Martin
Providence St. Joseph Health

Michelle Kraft

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Authors
Janet Hobbs, Linda Schwartz, Patricia Ulmer, Heather Martin, Michelle Kraft, Michele Matucheski, Kellee Selden, and Angela Tucker

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Title: Strategies for Library Mergers & Centralizing Library Services

Abstract: More hospitals are merging or looking for ways to cut costs. Libraries need to know how to respond as a result and/or look for ways to centralize services.

Format: This session will have brief presentations followed by panel discussion and interactive question and answer.

Sponsors: Hospital Library Section, NAHRS

Objectives: This session will provide success stories and lessons learned from librarians who have gone through library centralization or library integration following hospital mergers. Presentations will cover needs assessment/SWOT analysis, licensing, budgeting, technical challenges, staff, solo perspective, and other considerations.

Audience: Hospital librarians looking to centralize services or who have recently merged or will be impacted by a merger in the future.

Learning Objectives:

1) Discuss the benefits of a needs assessment/SWOT analysis when merging
2) List some of the considerations involved in unifying services
3) Study the licensing and budgeting issues faced by merging
4) Recognize technical issues involved in a merger
5) Describe staffing challenges
6) Discuss challenges faced by solos

Instructional Methods: presentations, slides, question/answer, and panel discussion.

Participant Engagement: Presenters will actively solicit questions from audience for immediate answer and provide template materials that can be customized for their institution.

Presenters:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Janet Hobbs, AHIP</th>
<th>Community Memorial Health System</th>
<th>Buy In/Stakeholders</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linda Schwartz, MDE, AHIP</td>
<td>Director of Library Services Lehigh Valley Health Network - PA</td>
<td>Needs Assessment/SWOT Analysis Led merger of 3 sites within 2 years including administration, financial, technical, staffing, and implementation; developed needs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patricia Ulmer, MLS, AHIP</td>
<td>Director – Health Sciences Libraries Geisinger Health - PA</td>
<td>Budgeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michelle Kraft, MLS, AHIP</td>
<td>Director – Library Services Cleveland Clinic - OH</td>
<td>Technical Issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michele Matucheski, MLS, AHIP &amp; Kellee Selden, MLIS, MSMI</td>
<td>Medical Librarian Program Manager Library Services and Research Ascension - WI</td>
<td>Unifying Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angela Tucker, MLIS, MIDT, AHIP</td>
<td>Library Services Memorial Health System - OH</td>
<td>Solo perspective</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Technical Requirements:** microphones (5-6), computer, projector, screen
Budget Requirements: ?

Logistics Contact: Angela Spencer, MLS, AHIP, St. Luke's Hospital Chesterfield MO