

5-2019

Strategies for Library Mergers & Centralizing Library Services

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Recommended Citation

Hobbs, Janet; Schwartz, Linda; Ulmer, Patricia; Martin, Heather; Kraft, Michelle; Matucheski, Michele; Selden, Kellee; and Tucker, Angela, "Strategies for Library Mergers & Centralizing Library Services" (2019). *Articles, Abstracts, and Reports*. 1524.
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Authors

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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 know how to respond as a result and/or look for way 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:

Janet Hobbs, AHIP	Community Memorial Health System	Buy In/Stakeholders	
Linda Schwartz, MDE, AHIP	Director of Library Services Lehigh Valley Health Network - PA	Needs Assessment/SWOT Analysis	Led merger of 3 sites within 2 years including administration, financial, technical, staffing, and implementation; developed needs

			assessment and tracking templates
Patricia Ulmer, MLS, AHIP	Director – Health Sciences Libraries Geisinger Health - PA	Budgeting	Co-led the integration and expansion of library services in 6 hospital mergers. Two of the newly merged hospitals have solo librarians with dedicated digital and print
Heather Martin, MIST, AHIP	Director of System Library Services Providence St. Joseph Health System - OR	Licensing	Led centralization of 3 Oregon libraries in 2012, 9 health system libraries spread across 5 states into a single unified system in 2015 and merger of 2 health systems (12 libraries) in 2018.
Michelle Kraft, MLS, AHIP	Director – Library Services Cleveland Clinic - OH	Technical Issues	
Michele Matucheski, MLS, AHIP & Kellee Selden, MLIS, MSMI	Medical Librarian Program Manager Library Services and Research Ascension - WI	Unifying Services	Unified Ascension Library Services across the state of Wisconsin beginning in 2016, after a merger combined 3 formerly separate hospital systems with 24 Hospitals.
		staffing	
Angela Tucker, MLIS, MIDT, AHIP	Library Services Memorial Health System - OH	Solo perspective	Solo hospital librarian for 23 years and experienced the merger of two hospitals and the challenges of a solo servicing multiple campuses.

Technical Requirements: microphones (5-6), computer, projector, screen

Budget Requirements: ?

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