

The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Movement: Opportunities for Collaboration and Action Research for Librarians

Definition of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning:

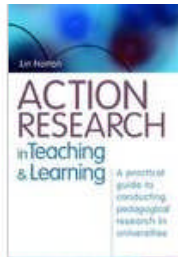
The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) is a movement in higher education that uses an action-research approach to promote change in education and improve teaching. SoTL encourages faculty to apply their research skills to find better methods for teaching and learning in the classroom. The SoTL approach uses reflection, collaboration, and research to systematically document and disseminate research on methods for improving student learning.

Benefits for the Library:

- More time with students
- Better integration of library resources in the curriculum
- Greater participation by the library in the larger academic community of the institution

Example of Collaboration between a Librarian and Faculty Person

- Find out why history students do not use e-books for class assignments.
- Results:
 - Students did not use e-books that did not exactly match instructor recommendations
 - Access to e-books was complicated and counter intuitive
- They reflected on findings and reported to the history department.
- Study served as basis for more collaboration between the instructor and librarian.



Norton, L. (2009). *Action research in teaching and learning: A practical guide to conducting pedagogical research in universities*. London, England: Routledge.

Opportunities for Librarian Collaboration with Faculty

- Librarian support of action research of faculty initiatives in the classroom
 - Identify formal knowledge that as documented in the literature – discipline specific and pedagogical research
 - Collaboration with faculty in classroom instruction.
- Librarians doing own research projects focused on library efforts to promote information literacy in the classroom.

References

- Boyer, E. (1990). *Scholarship reconsidered: Priorities of the profession*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.
- Bradley, C. (2009). The scholarship of teaching and learning: Opportunities for librarians. *College & Research Libraries News*, 70(5), 276-278.
- Norton, L. (2009). *Action research in teaching and learning: A practical guide to conducting pedagogical research in universities*. London, England: Routledge.