

LIBRARIANS AS TEACHER LEADERS

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Librarians as Teachers



- Increased teaching roles
- More job duties related to instruction
- More time spent on instruction
- Librarians are beginning to identify as teachers
(Walter, 2003)

Definitions of Leadership

- A process by which a person influences others to accomplish a vision and goals, and that brings people together to make the organization more cohesive and effective in the present and the future (Clark, 2008).
- Accomplishment of a group purpose (Gardner, 1990).
- Leadership has to motivate action for change

Instructional Leadership

- A teacher's influence beyond the classroom environment to initiate change among peers, administrators and within the institution.
- Leaders should understand the institutional culture, create a shared vision of information literacy, and use relationship-building skills to create a network of followers.

Librarian Teacher Leaders



- Competencies in three areas: personal, interpersonal and organizational understanding

Personal



- Professional development/continuous learning
- Use research/data in decision making (evidence-based practice)
- Viewed as authorities or experts in their field
- Practice critical reflection in teaching
- Willing to take risks

Interpersonal

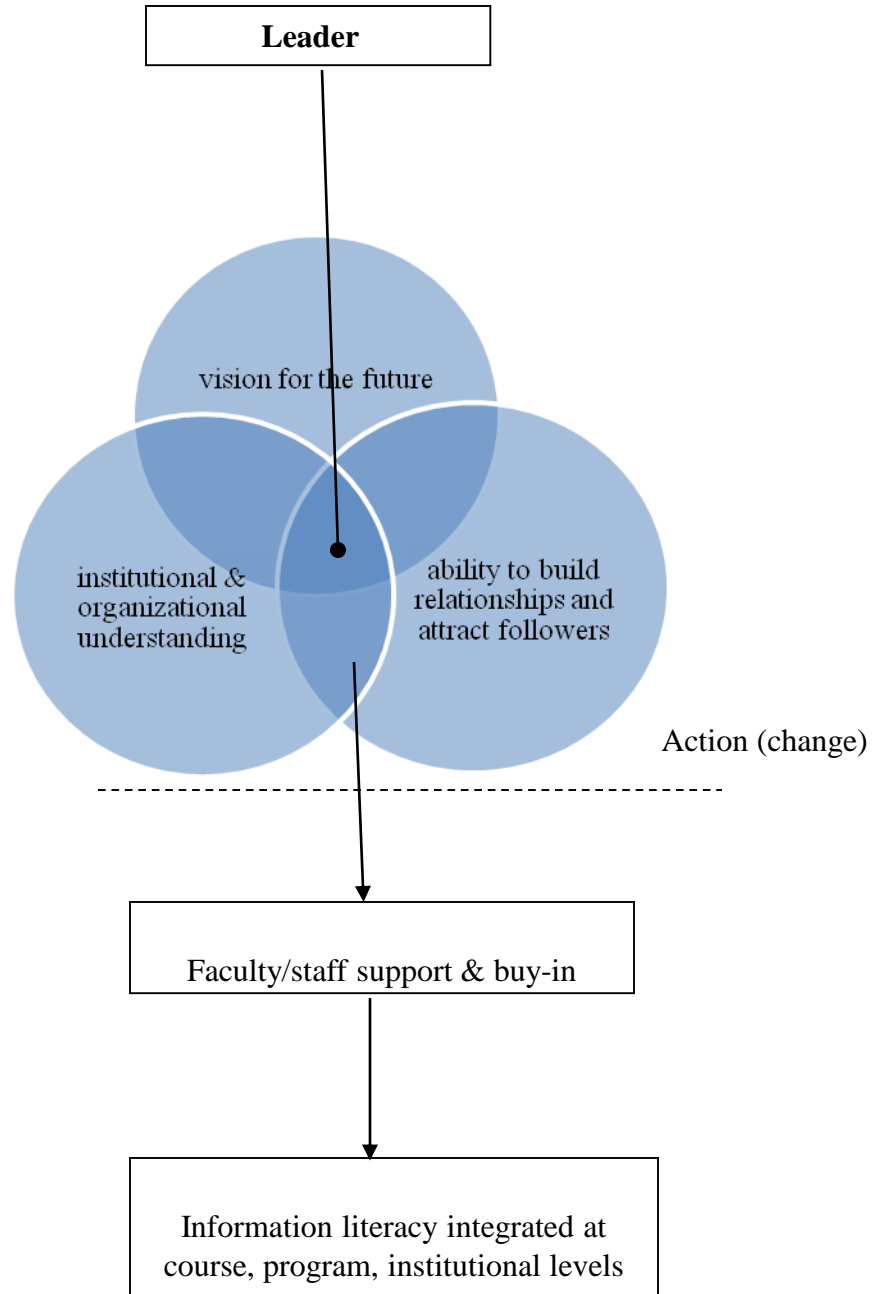


- Ability and willingness to work collaboratively
- Good at building relationships
- Gain colleagues' trust

Organizational Understanding



- Understand the politics of their institution
- Know who the “key players” are
- Understand different departments within an institution have different cultures and can adapt accordingly



Moving Toward Action

- How do we influence change?
- What are the barriers?
- What are the strategies for overcoming the barriers?

- Creating a dialogue:
 - ▣ Focus groups
 - ▣ Professional development
 - ▣ Local definitions



Assessment: An Instructional Opportunity

Assessment for Information Literacy



- Evidence of impact.
- Demonstrate student learning, and by extension, contribution to institutional mission and goals.
- Provide professional development opportunities for faculty.

References

- Clark, D. (2008). *Concepts of leadership*. Retrieved from <http://www.nwlink.com/~donclark/leader/leadcon.html>
- Gardner, J. W. (1990). *On leadership*. New York: Free Press.
- Walter, S. (2008). Librarians as teachers: A qualitative inquiry into professional identity. *College & Research Libraries*, 69(1), 51-71.