Learning from Disruption: Sustaining the Academic Research Library through Economic and Social Distress

Damon E. Jaggars
CEAL Annual Meeting 2021
March 18, 2021
Beyond Autumn 2021 Working Group

Based on what we have learned from the pandemic, what do we envision research, teaching and learning and outreach and engagement missions, for AU21 and beyond?

What are key challenges that we must address to achieve that vision?

What steps need to be taken (and on what timeline) to help us get there?
3 Key Takeaways

- We can operate effectively in virtual environments in many circumstances.
- We can provide desired workplace flexibility and fulfill our missions effectively.
- The pandemic amplified longstanding economic and social vulnerabilities.
Current reality

Institutional

Operational disruption
Budgetary weakness

Individual

Social-emotional distress
Economic uncertainty
Stagnant/decreasing investment in operations

Uncompetitive/inequitable compensation

Pandemic budget cuts

Emerging university priorities

Gaps in workflows and expertise

Operations budget
No library can go it alone.
Interdependence is now a necessity.
Interdependence is now practicable.
https://www.btaa.org/library/big-collection
Thank you.

Contact info:

Damon E. Jaggars  
Vice Provost & Dean of University Libraries  
The Ohio State University  
jaggars.1@osu.edu  
614-292-2365