Williams Libraries. What do we mean by "Engagement"?

As an academic library, "w*e embrace a culture of engagement and participate in the educational mission of Williams. By fostering a stimulating and inclusive exchange of ideas, we enact community around knowledge and information to continually develop values of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility alongside our users."* [from library's [Strategic Plan - Engagement Section](#)]

Drawing on:
- our expertise as providers, curators and organizers of information
- the belief that academic libraries have a critical role to play in transformative liberal arts education
- the library's position at the intersection of students/faculty and curricular/co-curricular experiences
- our active participation in the life of the college
- the ACRL principles of information literacy as our framework
- our commitment to a self-reflective, critical, and activist approach to engaging with information and to examining the systems that shapes the information landscape

We carry out the strategic goal of engagement by identifying, creating and organizing opportunities to work with members of the Williams community around themes of creation, production and use of knowledge and information. Specifically, we

- Work with faculty to develop opportunities to support students critically and creatively engage with information as they learn and research.

- Partner with the Rice Center for Teaching and other academic staff colleagues to support the needs of faculty in their roles of teacher, researcher, author, and learner.

- Create opportunities for scholarly engagement with the library resources.

- Work on campus to foster information literacy beyond the classroom (beyond curricular need)

- Develop learning opportunities about the world of information and information ethics.

- Partner with the Williams community to examine, critique, and do our part to change systems of oppression in the Libraries and in scholarly publishing.

We do this work using a multimodal (in-person and virtual, synchronous and asynchronous) and inclusive approach (focusing on working with minoritized groups and providing opportunities for students to lead initiatives/projects)

This work aims to foster a stimulating and inclusive exchange of ideas about knowledge and information and empower students as information creators and users in and out of the classroom.