Urban Knowledge Hubs: Rethinking the Academic Library

Research Question: How do we – LIS students – see the future of academic libraries? What should they become? And how might we collectively develop a shared vision of future-ready academic libraries?

Data Collection: Survey

Each student should collect 10 responses from their fellow LIS students (only one response per person - the same person cannot respond to the survey multiple times)

Survey will be anonymous - survey software, QR code, delivered as a questionnaire (researcher fills out the form on their computer) …

Preliminary Survey

Indicate country: (e.g., France)

Section 1: Introduction

Title: Academic Library & Knowledge Hub Survey

Description:

This short survey explores which spaces, technologies, and activities students find most useful in academic libraries and other learning environments. Your responses (anonymous) will be used in a student research poster at the BOBCATSSS conference.

Section 2: Spaces

Question: Which types of spaces do you find most useful in a library or study hub?

(Select all that apply)

- Quiet study zones

- Group study / project rooms

- Makerspace / creative space / digital lab

- Social / lounge area(s)

- Hybrid meeting rooms (Zoom + in-person)

- Event space (e.g. discussion, presentations, author talks, etc.)

- Exhibition space / gallery

- Outdoor study space (e.g., gazebos, rooftop garden)

- Other: _____

Section 3: Technology

Question: Which technologies should a modern academic library or knowledge hub offer?

(Select all that apply)

- AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, translation tools, text-to-speech)

- AR/VR equipment

- 3D printers / fabrication tools

- Recording studio (podcast/video)

- Large screens / smartboards

- Multimedia editing software

- Laptop / device lending

- Hybrid meeting technology (microphones, cameras, Zoom rooms)

- Gaming / e-sports equipment

- Other: _____

Section 4: Activities & Services

Question: Which activities would you participate in if your library offered them?

(Select all that apply)

- Courses or workshops (AI literacy, data skills, digital storytelling)

- Language café / intercultural meetups

- Peer-learning groups or study circles

- Exhibitions / student showcases

- Innovation / entrepreneurship meetups

- Gaming or e-sports events

- Mental health & wellbeing sessions

- Research support drop-ins

- Community-building activities

- Other: _____

Section 5: Partnerships for LIS Education

Local and Sectoral Collaboration (Meso Level)

Question: Which local organisations or communities should the library work with to improve learning and innovation?

(Select all that apply)

- Other academic departments (e.g., Computer Science, Education, Sociology)

- Public libraries

- School libraries

- National libraries

- Archives and museums (LAM institutions)

- Research centres / think tanks

- IT services / digital innovation units

- Community organisations / NGOs

- Industry partners (e.g., tech companies, publishers, data services)

- Cultural institutions (e.g., theatres, arts centres)

- International partners / Erasmus+ networks

- Other: _____

Section 6: Global Knowledge and Research Support

Question: Which types of global research resources should your library prioritise?

(Select all that apply)

- International academic databases (e.g., Scopus, Web of Science)

- Subject-specific research databases

- Open Access repositories (institutional / international)

- Preprint servers (e.g., arXiv, SSRN)

- Open data portals (e.g., EU Open Data, government data)

- Tools for referencing, research management, and knowledge organisation

- Global digital archives / heritage collections

- Interlibrary loan and document delivery

- Other: _____

Section 7: New and emerging user needs

Question: If your academic library could change and add one thing to support you better, what would it be?

- Accessing study areas during unstaffed hours

- Group room reservation system

- Additional charging stations for laptops and phones

- Increase e-resources

- Workshops on data visualization, software, image editing, etc. (higher level/ more specialized than in required courses)

- Computers with subscriptions (e.g., (premium) AI, genealogy databases)

- More quiet study rooms that can be reserved in advance

(Short answer)

Section 8: Background

Question: Study level:

- BA

- MA

- PhD

- Other