

Steven Bell

2016 ACL Virtual Conference Speaker



Title: Higher Education's Mess Is Our Leadership Opportunity: Opening the Virtual Gate to Digital Learners

Description:

These are hardly the best of times for American higher education. Tuition continues to rise, graduation rates continue to fall, new competitor attract students while demographic changes causes the enrollment blues. Open up your newspaper and you are more likely to read about a college or university laying off faculty and staff. Get past the doom and gloom and this may be an opportune time for academic librarians to expand their services to new learners pursuing digital education. Even as the modes of delivery evolve, librarians remain challenged in migrating the face-to-face user experience (UX) to the online learning environment. Doing so requires a shift from gatekeeping to gate opening for a systemic digital library experience. In this talk, Steven will share insights on current challenges in higher education and how that is creating a growing demand for and supply of digital learners. He will explore the opportunities for collaboration with digital education programs to support the teaching needs of faculty and deliver research services and instruction to learners. In doing so, Librarian-educators will need to be equally well versed in pedagogy and andragogy as they design instructional technology for a new generation of digital students.