

# Re-Framing Library Liaison Roles Around Research Collaboration



Re-think it: Libraries for a New Age

January 10, 2018



An aerial photograph of the North Carolina State University campus. The image is dominated by lush green trees. In the center, a tall, white, classical-style clock tower stands prominently. To the left of the tower, there are several large, multi-story brick buildings with traditional architectural features like dormers and chimneys. Further left, a baseball field is visible, surrounded by a dirt infield and green grass. The word "NC STATE" is superimposed in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the image, partially obscuring the clock tower and the surrounding trees.

NC STATE

# NC State's Goals

- **Goal 1: Enhance student success**
- **Goal 2: Invest in faculty and infrastructure**
- **Goal 3: Support interdisciplinary scholarship**
- **Goal 4: Pursue organizational excellence**
- **Goal 5: Engage locally and globally**

# Why Re-align?

- **Libraries' Strategic Goal 4.1:** Enhance **student success** by providing high-impact educational experiences and engaging learning spaces for graduate and undergraduate students.
  - Form a **new organizational division**, bringing together the Libraries units most focused on student learning to provide dynamic, relevant services, spaces, technologies, and information, and to enable all forms of learning, discovery, and research.

# Why Re-align?

- **Libraries' Strategic Goal 4.2:** Contribute to the university's research infrastructure through strong collections, expert staff, outstanding research spaces, and **strategic alignment of resources to advance the capacity of our researchers and partners.**
  - Create **Chief Strategist for Research Collaboration** position
  - Apply the skills and capabilities of subject specialist librarians to work in a **new model of research collaboration** with faculty and researchers...



# Significance of Chief Strategists Roles

## Primary roles of Chief Strategist for Student Success:

- “Build cohesion between the 3 departments in Student Success”
- “Build a bridge to campus units that form core infrastructure for student success”
- “Develop and deliver a common brand for all service points including in-person and web/virtual”

## Primary roles of Chief Strategist for Research Collaboration:

- “Tracking trends in academic, research, and industry that will benefit the institution”
- “Exploring how the libraries can hook into and improve research workflows and impact”
- “Developing new, collaborative, strategic relationships”
- “Enabling staff to learn new approaches and technologies, particularly around data savvy skills”
- “Investigating & piloting new storytelling approaches to engage our communities”

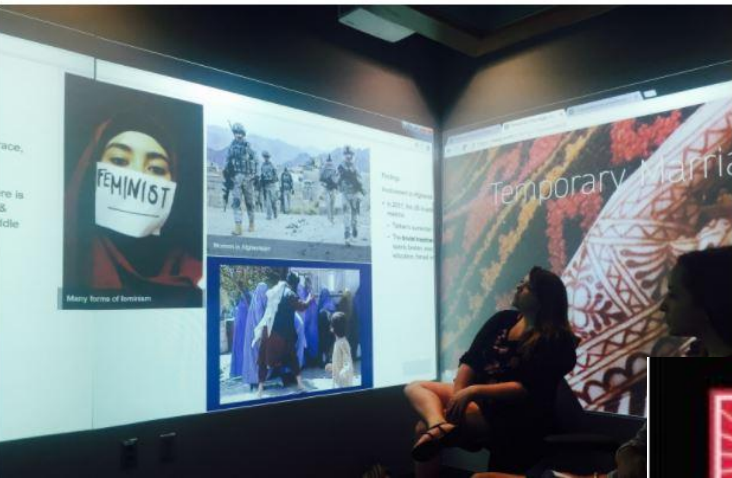
# First Signs of Re-alignment in Practice

- Unite subject liaison librarians under one organization unit
- Create new department to add capacity & focus → Research Engagement
- Rename Collection Management to reflect current practice → Collections & Research Strategy



# Reflect Current Practice - Research Engagement

Anthropology in 360°: Cultural immersion in the Visualization Studio



## Great Articles in Library Science: “Lab-Integrated Librarians: Engagement with Unreachable Researchers”

Our friend Alex Carroll recently published an article with his North Carolina State University colleagues Bertha Chang and Honora Eskridge that I think is really great and wanted to draw our readers’ attention to. The paper, “Lab-



— 2016 —  
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CHALLENGE**

**Participate in the Wolfpack  
Citizen Science Challenge**

“Catch” animals on camera to win prizes! We’re asking students, faculty and staff to use camera traps to make discoveries about the mammals that live right here on campus. For more information and registration visit:

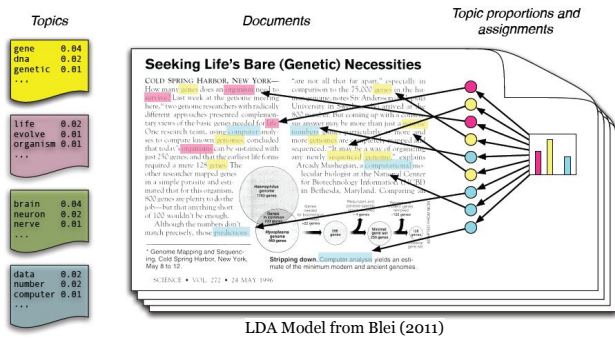
[go.ncsu.edu/citiscischallenge](http://go.ncsu.edu/citiscischallenge)



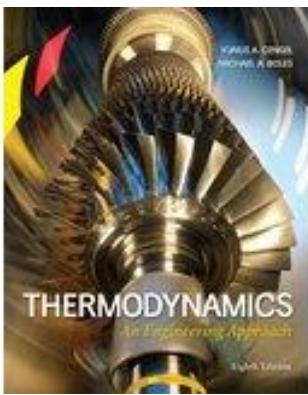


# Reflect Current Practice - Collection Strategy

## Content-mining



## Textbooks



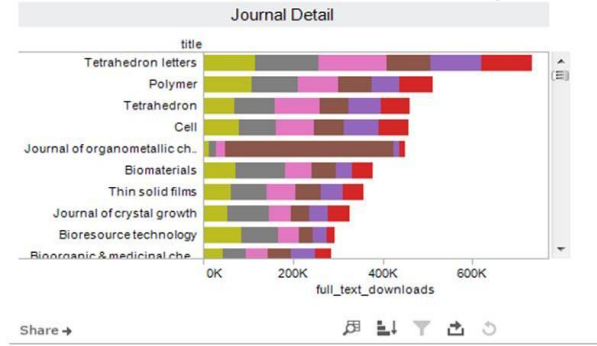
## DDA, EBA approaches



## Design Tools, Models, Prototyping



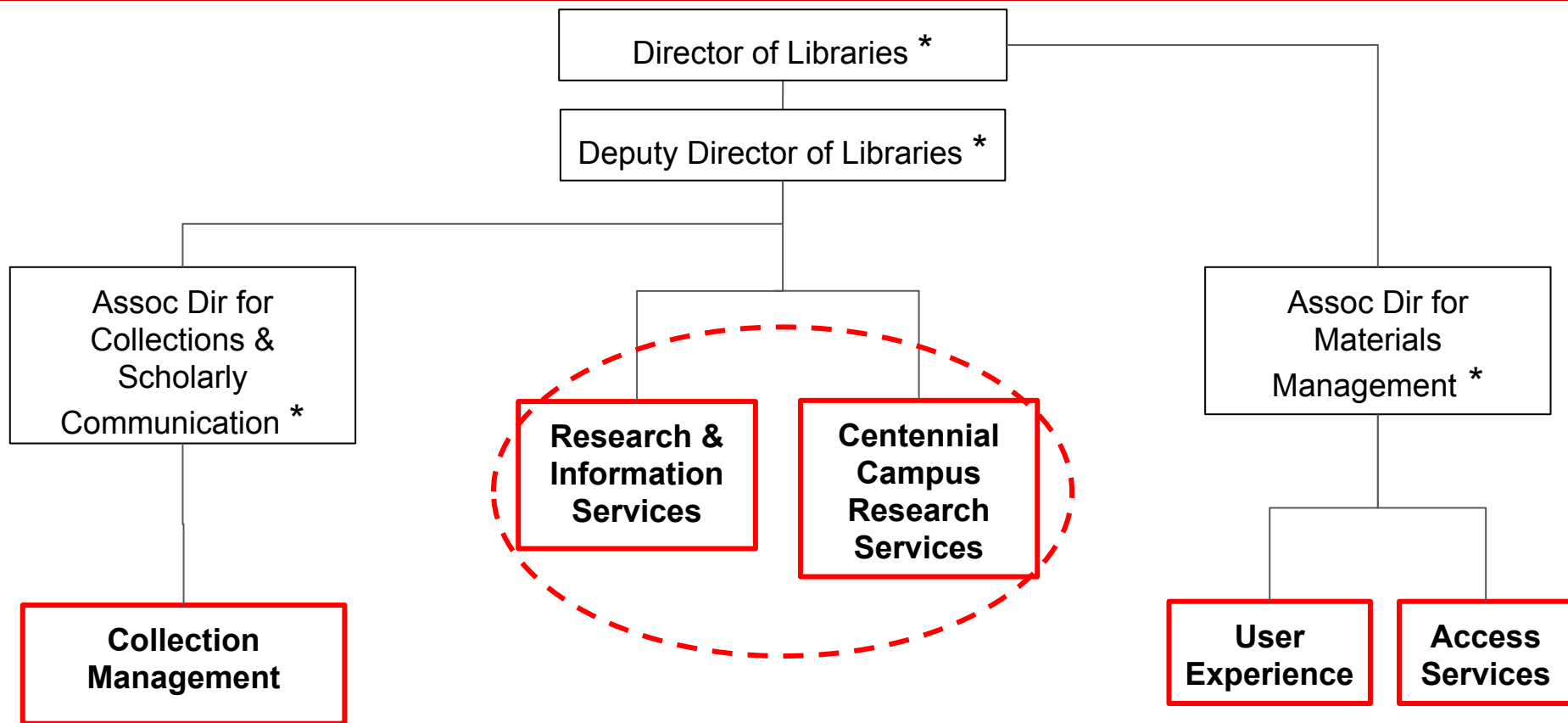
## Data-informed collection building



# Reflect Current Practice - Research Data & Impact

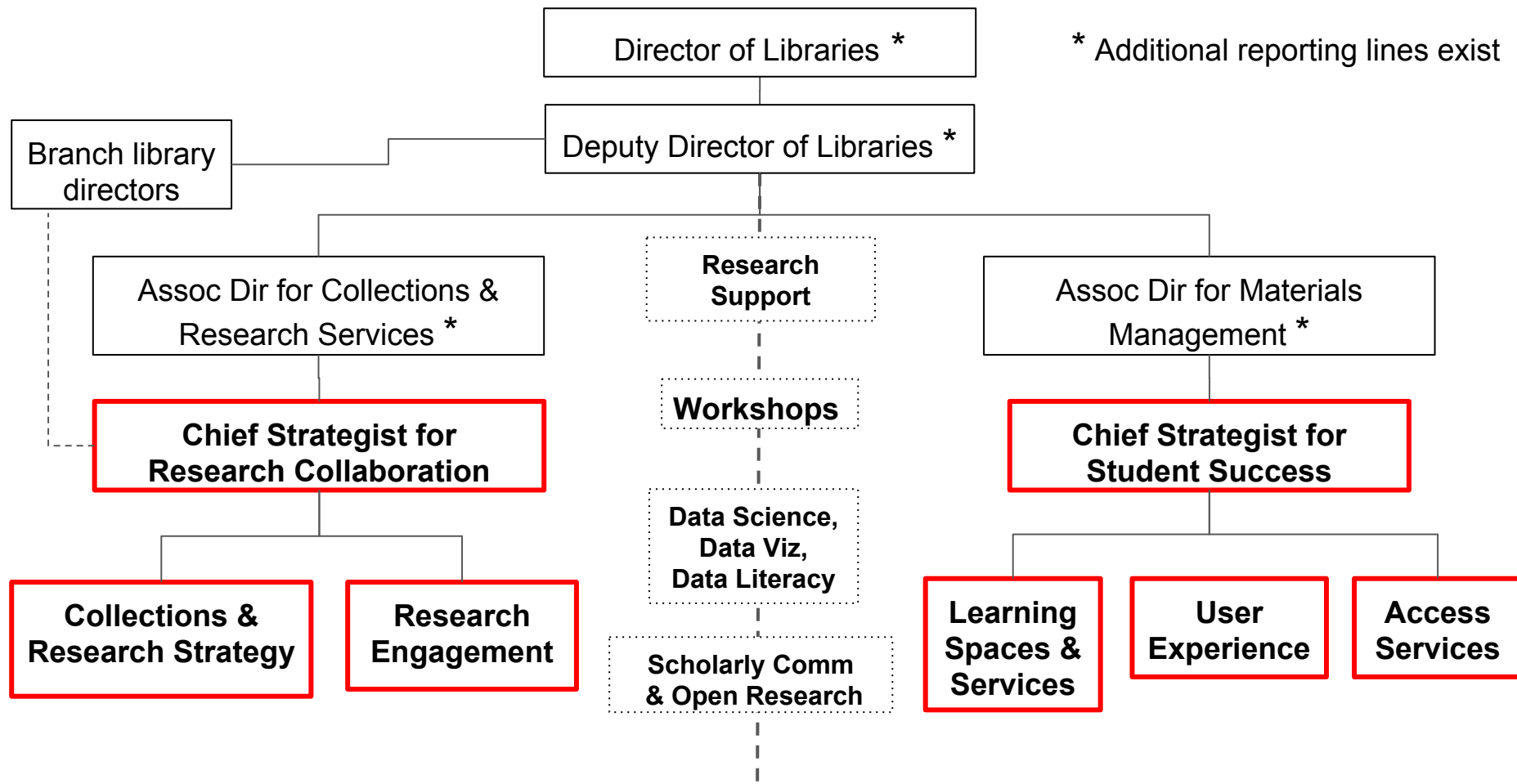


# Organizational Structure - Before



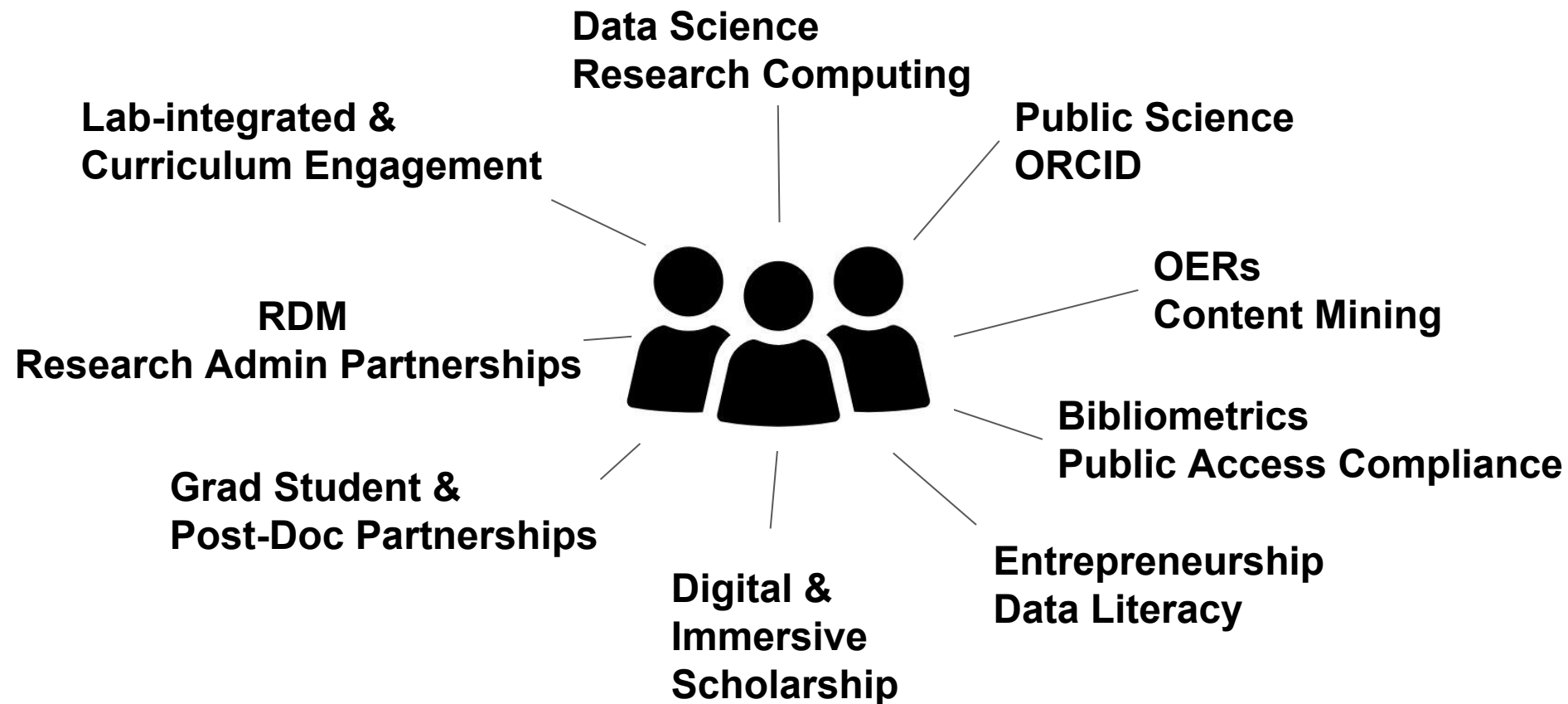
\* Additional reporting lines exist

# Organizational Structure - After





# Impact on Individual Contributors



# Projects & Initiatives Spurred by Re-alignment

NCSU LIBRARIES

**PEER SCHOLARS**  
PROGRAM



**Research Computing  
Event Series**



**NCSU Lib Research**

@ncsulibresearch

Research Collaboration group at  
[@ncsulibraries.](#)



**ORCID**



# Organizational Limitations of Changing Roles

- Core jobs don't go away leading to increased workload & competing priorities



- Permeation of roles is complex & confusing



- Develop new mission, vision, goals for Division
- Partner with graduate school & post-doc assn
- Cross-division coordination
  - Undergraduate researchers
  - Open research practice

# Technical Skills Limitations of Changing Roles

- Bridge technical & non-technical cultures
  - Quick Takes
  - Collaborate with technical depts
- Invoke informal group training
  - SWAP events
  - Project Management
- Dedicate time to develop skills
  - Software Carpentry
  - DataCamp





# The Future



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