

AMICAL Consortium

Program highlights • Spring 2017

Through collaboration, the AMICAL Consortium raises the quality of library, technology and curricular resources across the 27 international liberal arts institutions that form our membership.

Our work has been supported by a series of grants from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the most recent providing \$800,000 of support over 2015-2018 for “Library leadership, faculty collaboration and digital initiatives to strengthen liberal arts abroad.” Just as importantly, our work is the product of member support and participation. Annual consortial fees are essential to our continued operations, and AMICAL colleagues’ leadership, volunteerism, and engagement within our community are the motors driving our programs.



AMICAL’s programs are shaped around the following strategic focus areas: leadership of libraries and technology services, curriculum-integrated digital initiatives, information literacy, cooperative acquisition of library resources, and building faculty & staff communities of practice. We work on those areas primarily through our faculty & staff development events, through our Small Grants, and through our online community platforms and collaboration tools. Below we highlight just some of the recent events and projects supported by AMICAL, whose success reflects the increasing breadth and enthusiasm of participation across the faculty, librarians and technologists of our consortium.

Curriculum-integrated digital initiatives

How we can use digital methods and resources to

- engage in new forms of scholarship, in particular with our students?
- teach more effectively, with greater student engagement?

AMICAL’s events, grant programs, and committee structures currently give great emphasis to both faculty/staff development and projects that relate to these questions.



Workshop | DHI-B: Digital Humanities Institute – Beirut 2017

Mar 10–12, 2017 • AU of Beirut

A 3-day series of workshops and mini-courses providing hands-on digital humanities training with a regional focus. Founded on the principles of co-learning and co-teaching among a community of faculty, librarians and instructional design staff, the workshop was designed to help members coalesce around a consortial community of practice in digital scholarship. Principal event funding came from AU Beirut.

Workshop | Digital Pedagogy Lab Cairo: An AMICAL Institute

Mar 20–22, 2016 • AU in Cairo

Facilitated by some of the leading voices in the field of critical digital pedagogy, this 3-day workshop led faculty, technologists and librarians through intense and inspiring conversations about teaching and learning in the digital age.



Small grants for projects & staff exchanges

- *AUCA digital collections* (AU Central Asia)
- *Creating a corpus of multilingual TEI XML transcriptions from the Linguistic Landscapes of Beirut Project* (AU Beirut)
- *Digitizing Perestroika in Kyrgyzstan* (AU Central Asia)
- *Digital humanities workshops & consulting* (AU Paris)
- *Thesis repository for the Bissell Library* (AC Thessaloniki)
- *Podcasting Life 101: AUC Centennial* (AU Cairo)

Information literacy

Librarians and faculty are natural partners for developing students’ critical use and production of information-based research materials. For over a decade, AMICAL has been organizing and supporting training for librarians and faculty who actively integrate

information literacy learning goals in their local curricula.



Workshop | Co-design: Integrating information literacy into your disciplinary course

Mar 31 – Apr 1, 2017 • AU of Paris

A 2-day workshop for disciplinary faculty and librarians on the collaborative design of course-embedded information literacy activities. Using ACRL's Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education, participants developed a course to be taught in the fall of 2017.

Small grants for professional development

ACRL Immersion (AU Paris, AU Nigeria)

Leadership of libraries and technology services

AMICAL's events and grant programs give high priority to the development of leadership skills, innovative practices, and change management among directors and other leaders in our libraries and technology units.

Workshop | Assessing and communicating library contributions to institutional priorities

Jan 26–27, 2017 • AU of Kuwait

A 2-day intensive workshop for library directors on strategic and sustainable library assessment for academic libraries, led by Kara Malenfant (ACRL) and Karen Brown (Dominican U).



Workshop | Evidence-based planning & decision-making in academic libraries

Jan 22–23, 2016 • John Cabot U

A workshop facilitated by leaders from Ithaka S+R on effective change management, focusing on library spaces and technology in small college libraries.

Building faculty & staff communities of practice

All of the events described here have sown new seeds for cooperation and community building, while reinforcing existing ties. Our online forum and other collaboration tools help to sustain and expand communities throughout the year, but we also have a growing number of inter-institutional exchanges of expertise supported through our grant programs.

Small grants for staff exchanges

• AUC-AUB-LAU library collections collaboration meeting (AU Cairo)

• Support between learning centers to help establish teaching excellence certification and faculty learning communities (AU Central Asia)

Cooperative acquisition of library resources

Among the most concrete benefits of AMICAL membership is eligibility to participate in group-negotiated discounts for licensed resources, such as article databases, e-book collections, and library management systems.

The E-Resources Committee facilitated a deal with JSTOR to provide ebooks under a demand-driven acquisition model with a 65% discount to participating members. (December 2016)

Our annual Conference

"I have been to many conferences over the years, but AMICAL is the one everyone wants to attend." —Russell Stephens, former Director for Collections, AU Cairo Libraries

AMICAL 2017, our next annual meeting and conference, will be held 17–20 May at the American College of Thessaloniki. The theme is "Centering on learning: Partnerships and professional development among librarians, faculty and technologists," and the balance of campus roles among registered attendees reflects that interest in partnership:

- 48% libraries & archives
- 33% faculty or faculty developers
- 19% instructional designers/technologists or IT managers/staff



AMICAL 2016 was held at the American University of Rome, with the theme "Libraries and digital initiatives." Attendee feedback emphasized the Conference's unique value:

- *"The focus on practicality: building programs, how to create a center, an archive, etc. and examples of what others have tried. I leave with many ideas of plans I want to implement."*
- *"[The invited workshop] was perfect, addressing exactly the issues I have been thinking about."*
- *"Opened up a new world to me in terms of thinking about how to engage students in a different way to understand literature."*
- *"The diversity of participants both in terms of location and role and yet this thing in common of being American/liberal arts in direction, with the unique challenges of doing so outside the US context. Also - the informality and continuity of the community; these are people you can build relationships with."*