AMICAL Consortium

Program highlights • *Spring 2018*

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, including our current grant of $800,000 over 2015-2018 for "Library leadership, faculty collaboration and digital initiatives to strengthen liberal arts abroad." Below we highlight just some of the recent initiatives supported by AMICAL, whose success reflects the increasing breadth and enthusiasm of participation across the faculty, librarians and technologists of our consortium.

Consortial discounts on library resources

Thanks to the hard work and skillful negotiation of Elisabetta Morani (John Cabot U.) and other members of AMICAL's E-Resources Committee, we've expanded the number and value of AMICAL's discounts on databases and other licensed resources. For 2017, members benefited from an average of $13,000/institution in total discounts through AMICAL, with a maximum of $72,000/institution.

Our E-Resources Committee is also leading initiatives for member libraries to experiment with new models of access to scholarly resources. In addition to our ongoing pilot with JSTOR to provide demand-driven selection of ebooks, AMICAL members participated in Knowledge Unlatched's successful 2017 drive to turn 300 HSS academic titles and 15 journals into open access titles.

AMICAL continues to work with OCLC to bring latest-generation library management technologies to members at discounted prices.

AMICAL cohort:
Digital Humanities Summer Institute (DHSI)

AMICAL's Digital Scholarship Committee launched this year an initiative intended to strengthen AMICAL members' collective ability to engage in digital humanities teaching and research. The AMICAL cohort gathers 5 institution-based teams and coordinates their participation in the June 2018 Digital Humanities Summer Institute at the University of Victoria. The cohort includes 19 faculty, librarians, instructional technologists and deans with local curriculum-related DH projects.

AMICAL is arranging expert consultation and peer feedback for the cohort and helping them prepare for effective participation at DHSI. We're providing most of the cohort's essential funding to attend this 2-week event, recognized throughout the DH community as one of the best sources for learning about DH at any level. After DHSI, the cohort will form part of the core of a growing community of AMICAL colleagues interested in innovative digital approaches to humanities teaching and research.

Paul Prinsloo leading a workshop at TALIX

TALIX: Teaching and Learning Innovation Exchange

In February, AU Cairo hosted the first edition of TALIX, which brought together AMICAL and local colleagues to share ideas, and plan collaborative projects, for innovation in teaching and learning. Participants included 21 visiting AMICAL colleagues and dozens of AU Cairo colleagues, including faculty developers, disciplinary faculty, instructional technologists and librarians.

One goal was to inspire and assist members' work on the development of centers for teaching and learning. AU Cairo's successful Center for Learning & Teaching provided an onsite source of expertise and consultation during the event. The event also led to the creation of a vibrant interest group of faculty development center coordinators across AMICAL, and colleagues are already benefiting there from discussion, feedback on plans, and ideas for future collaboration.

A number of other collaborative projects were proposed at TALIX, including an inventory of institutional statements & human resources supporting digital literacies at AMICAL institutions, currently under development.

Online events: info lit, digital pedagogy and DH

AMICAL has organized 12 online events in the past year. These events are largely organized by member groups, and among the most active of those are AMICAL's information literacy librarians. Their Journal Club events in particular have been encouraging librarians to read the current professional literature and discuss its implications for their work at AMICAL institutions. Other groups have organized events on current topics in digital pedagogy and digital humanities.

Recent topics have included:

• Digital pedagogy meets information literacy: Reflections on the "NMC Strategic Brief on Digital Literacy II 2017"
• Strategies for teaching about fake news
• Mapping in the digital liberal arts: Models, methods, futures
• Information Literacy Journal Club: Outreach to faculty
• E-portfolios

Small Grants

Our Small Grants program awards up to €4,000 for professional development, staff exchanges and local projects that relate to AMICAL's mission. Here are a few of the recent activities we've supported:

• Harvard Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians
• Stylometry Workshop at the 8th European Summer University in Digital Humanities
• Conference on Performance Measurement in Libraries
• Faculty development and community media
• Development of Teaching Excellence Certification Component at AU Kosovo through collaboration of Faculty Development Centers
• European Conference on Information Literacy
• Exchange experience: digitization of university materials and ingesting of Faculty publications in University Repository
• Oral history collection development
• Building Data Analysis and Hosting Capacity at AUCA
• Analysing Kyrgyz Narratives
• Skills for information literacy teaching and curriculum design
• Certificate in Library Management
• Facilitating Access to Egyptian and AUC Heritage Oral Histories Through Transcribing and Description
• Open Education Global 2018 Conference
• ACRL Information Literacy Immersion Program

The AMICAL Conference

"AMICAL is a great professional development and networking event highlighting the best of what the Consortium is doing to support its [member] institutions."

—Jyldyz Bekbalaeva, Library Director
American University of Central Asia

The AMICAL Conference brings together staff and faculty who are passionate about improving the learning experience of their students through innovative and effective use of libraries, information and technology.

AMICAL 2018 will be held at held 4-7 May at the American University of Central Asia. Our theme is "International liberal arts in a digital era: reimagining a shared vision for libraries, technology and learning." The program is built from member proposals and will address topics such as:

• Information & digital literacies
• Rethinking teaching and learning
• Reimagining libraries
• Strategic use and development of technology in higher ed
• Professional/leadership development in higher ed
• Growing the AMICAL Collaboration Network

American University of Central Asia, host of AMICAL 2018

Looking forward: 2018-2021

The Mellon Foundation recently awarded a $1.1 million, 3-year grant to AU Paris for "Building Leadership and Capacity for Digital Liberal Arts across AMICAL."

Grant goals
The grant will support the following goals across AMICAL member institutions:

● Strengthening library and technology leadership – Promoting innovative and effective leadership among librarians and technologists, in light of their changing and collaborative roles.
● Advancing programs for information and digital literacies – Helping students develop effective skills, and critical dispositions, in their use and creation of information in a digital environment.
● Developing localized and collaborative forms of digital liberal arts – Helping learners and scholars combine digital methods with humanistic inquiry, anchored with the resources or geo-cultural contexts of AMICAL institutions.

Grant-funded actions
Grant funded programs will support librarians, technologists and faculty through:

● Virtual community-building, mentoring and project-partnering structures
● Annual member-driven conference
● Strategic professional development
● Funding for projects related to grant goals
● Fellowship-supported programs for building capacity in the digital liberal arts