



**Chapter Council Presents
Sharing Roundtables
MLA Annual Meeting
San Antonio, TX
Monday, May 16, 2005**

Table 25: Strategic Planning

Facilitator: Teresa Knott

Recorder: Janette Shaffer

Additional Participants: Betty Allanson, Andrea Horne, Daniel Kanaley, Beverlee Warren

Themes

"Don't value planning only for its results - the plan. The greatest value is in the process - the thinking." Harry Beckwith

"Life is what happens while you are busy making plans." John Lennon

Discussion

While all participants had engaged in some type of strategic planning within their libraries, the level of planning varies greatly. Some participants have solid planning structures in place while others are just starting the process. All attendees are currently faced with challenges such as reorganization, budget restrictions, coping with new responsibilities and the lack of overall institutional planning ambiguity. The group identified strategic planning as an essential tool for dealing with these challenges.

Strategic planning is process. Planners must be ready to re-evaluate a plan and change it based on environmental changes. Acknowledging and analyzing failure is part of the planning process. The Library can use a well-written strategic plan as leverage with the institutional administration and to align itself with institutional goals. A plan can also be used to gain buy-in from institutional advocates.

A solid strategic plan should reflect the budget and the budget should reflect the plan. Having a plan in place is advantageous should unexpected funding emerge.

Developing a strategic plan should be a democratic process, yet it requires strong leadership. Planning should involve all organizational levels: task oriented, managerial, leadership. A plan should reflect a big picture view rather than day-to-day tasks.

Strategic planning is necessary to determine the desired future.