Virginia Tech Dean of Libraries Wins portal Award

Tyler Walters, Dean of Libraries at Virginia Tech, has won the 2013 Johns Hopkins University Press Award for the best article in the most recent volume of the journal portal: Libraries and the Academy.

The Journals Division of the Press and portal’s Editorial Board Awards Committee selected Walters’ article “The Future Role of Publishing Services in University Libraries,” which appeared in Volume 12, Number 4, October 2012.

“Walters has done a very substantial examination, exploring both the practical and theoretical aspects of the topic—it is almost a textbook case, a thorough synthesis of the state of the field while also speculating about future models,” says portal editor Sarah M. Pritchard, the Dean of Libraries and the Charles Deering McCormick University Librarian at Northwestern University.

The article takes a detailed look at new library publishing service scenarios, which would help provide advanced thinking, analysis, and planning for the future of university libraries in this service area. Walters writes about how these scenarios can help libraries develop as publishers when their host universities provide funding, as well as offer approaches that libraries may adopt when resources are more constrained. All this would allow university libraries to advance their role as a digital scholarly publisher.

Prior to coming to Virginia Tech in 2011, Walters served in a number of leadership positions in the library program at Georgia Tech. He has also worked in the library systems at Northwestern University and Iowa State University.

Walters holds a bachelor’s degree in history from Northern Illinois University, a master’s degree in history and archives from North Carolina State University, a master’s degree in library and information science from the University of Arizona, and is working toward a Ph.D. in managerial leadership in the information professions from Simmons College.

The winning article is judged on the quality of research methodology, on how well it places library issues in a broader academic or higher education context, whether it makes a significant contribution to the professional literature, its timeliness, and the quality of its writing.

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