

Research & Analytics Program Update

Assessment Committee
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Vice-Chair, Assessment Comm.

2017 Assessment Program Visioning Task Force

Identified member needs:

- Set the context for **understanding and communicating the stories** of the research library to external stakeholders and provide the **tools for members to tell this story locally.**
- Define the **values by which we want to be measured**, rather than trying to manifest values out of the data that we have.
- Create a **strong vision** about relevance (what we are and want to be) *before* deciding what to measure.

Where We Are Now: Accomplishments

| | |
|------------------|--|
| March-Sept. 2017 | 6 months Member-needs research + environmental scan <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interviews• Usage Analytics• Prioritized Personas• Member Input |
| October 2017 | Recommendations and Prioritized Roadmap |
| 2018 | Knowledge portal investigations |
| January 2018 | Workshop to advance the framework |
| Spring 2018 | Framework refinement groups |
| May 2018 | Full framework — feedback and refinement |
| July 2018 | Abbreviated framework |

Research Library Impact Framework

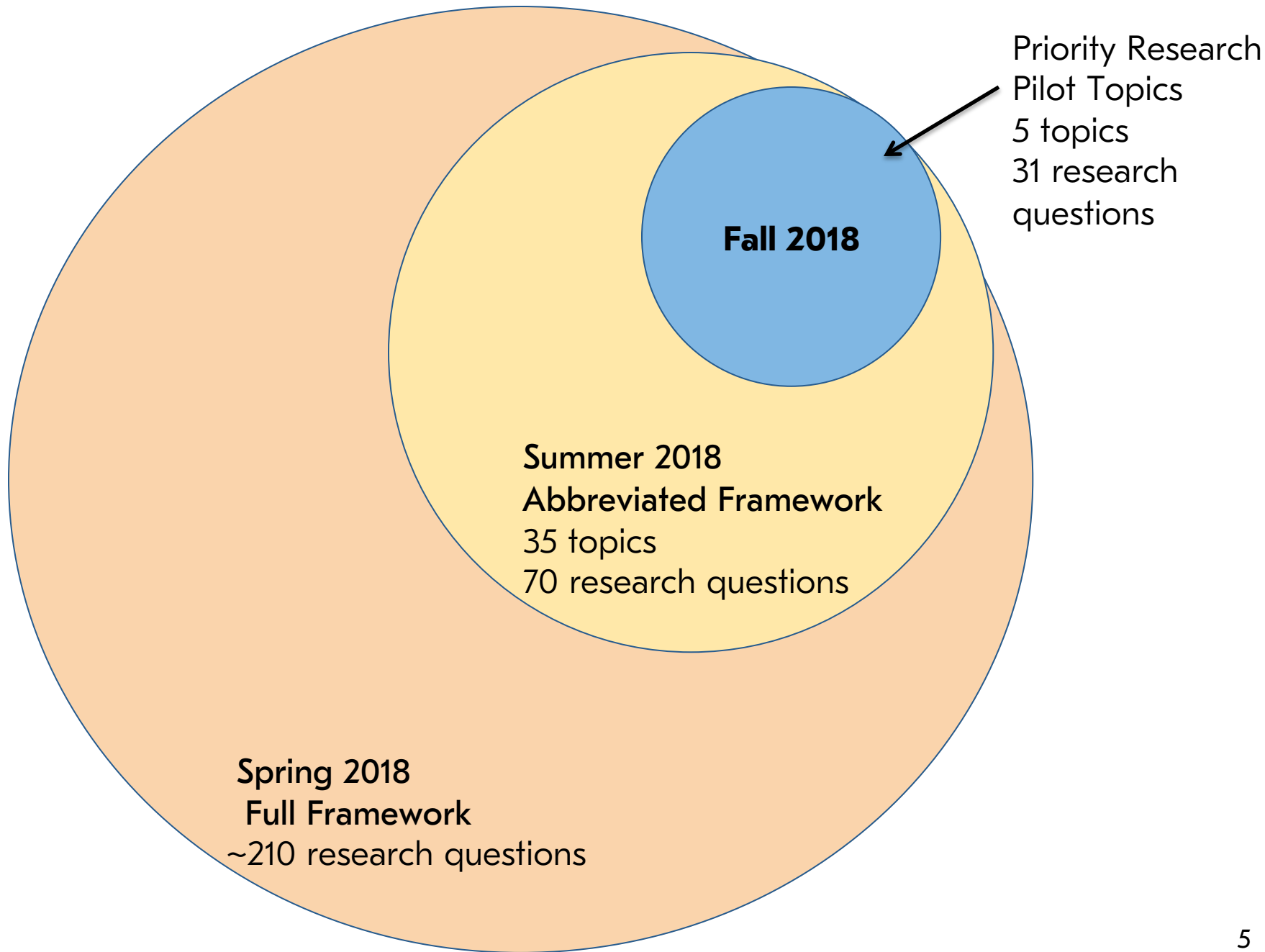
Research Library Impact Framework (aka Full Framework)

- Living document, regularly updated and re-prioritized with feedback from the ARL community

Abbreviated Framework

- Focused view of the Research Library Impact Framework, reflecting the current highest priority topics, based on ARL member and staff inputs.

The Research Library Impact Framework serves as the foundation for the ARL Research Agenda.



Research Library Impact Pilots

In-depth exploration of the highest priority Research Library Impact Framework topics.

- **Research Projects:** Formal, original research study, facilitated by ARL and its members.
- **Practice Briefs:** Short document designed to support practitioners with research-based information as they improve their library assessment work.

Recommended Initial Pilot Topics

1. (How) does the library help to increase research productivity and impact?
2. (How) do library spaces facilitate innovative research, creative thinking and problem-solving?
3. (How) does the library contribute to equitable student outcomes and an inclusive learning environment?
4. (How) do the library's special collections specifically support and promote teaching, learning, and research?
5. (How) do the library's collections play a role in attracting and retaining top researchers and faculty to the institution?

How Will the Pilots Meet ARL Member Needs?

Research Library Impact Pilots

- **Bridge** the gap between larger institutional goals and library operations
- **Address** the most pressing questions faced by ARL member library directors
- **Align** with the *Research Library Impact Framework* and the ARL Research Agenda
- **Elaborate** the *Research Library Impact Framework* and may inform future ARL Statistics

Practice Briefs

Characteristics

- Not necessarily 'ARL-initiated' research
- One institution or a few
- Topic is described within the context of ARL priorities
- Tests a hypothesis
- Some methodological rigor and content
- Tells a story of how someone else has done it in a specific, real-world context
- Articulates a practical application
- Provides examples

Deliverables

- 5-10 pages, in a standardized format that supports replication by other institutions
- Includes photos, when helpful

Definition of Practice Briefs:

[http://
stemteachingtools.org/
assets/landscapes/How-to-
Develop-Practice-Brief-
Initiative.pdf](http://stemteachingtools.org/assets/landscapes/How-to-Develop-Practice-Brief-Initiative.pdf)

Research Projects

Characteristics

- 'ARL-initiated' research
- Multiple institutions
- Topic is described within the context of ARL priorities
- Reviews previous research
- Identifies a research question
- Tests a hypothesis
- Methodological rigor
- Lead institution and principal investigator
- Analytical rigor

Deliverables

- Substantially longer than a Practice Brief
- ARL Research Project Publication
- May also include a Practice Brief, when applicable

Research Project Teams' Roles

1. **Leads** - Contribute expertise, time, resources, and sustained attention. Have a vested, local interest in the results of the study.
 - a. Lead Library: The institution/s ultimately responsible.
 - b. Principal Investigator: The individual ultimately responsible. May be ARL Visiting Program Officer.

2. **Partners** - Contribute expertise, time, resources, and sustained attention. Have a vested, local interest in the results of the study.
 - a. Partner Libraries
 - b. Contributors / Participants
 - c. Data Analyst/s & Coder/s

Research Project Teams' Work

Research

- Identify research already conducted
- Define detailed, actionable, specific research questions within topic
- Identify relevant methodology and methods
- Conduct research
- Collect and manage data
- Analyze results
- Produce and publish deliverables (next slide)

Project Management

- Identify required resources
- Solicit other partner volunteers
- Identify IRB and data sharing approach
- Identify time requirements - breaking the work into manageable, time-constrained pieces of work

Research Project Teams' Deliverables

- ARL Research Project publication
 - Previous Research with Bibliography
 - Well-crafted, specific research question with a testable hypothesis
 - Methodology - replicable, specific
 - Research data set/s
 - Analysis and narrative that addresses impact — deliver at least one evidence-based articulation of a practical application.
 - Limitations of the study
 - Recommendations for furthering the research
 - Recommendation for future ARL Stats (if applicable)
- ARL Practice Brief (if applicable)

Research Project Dissemination

- Locally
 - Participating ARL Libraries' delivery of results to key decision-makers in their institutions
- ARL
 - Publication of Research Project deliverables and hosting in ARL Knowledge Portal
 - Publication of Practice Brief (if applicable) and hosting in ARL Knowledge Portal
 - Announcement in ARL News
 - Public Presentation at ARL events
- Broader Community
 - (Optional) Publication in scholarly journals

Support Provided by ARL

- Potential ARL Visiting Program Officer positions for Research Project Principal Investigators
- Zoom conference access
- Travel funding
- Publication and dissemination of Research Project Deliverables and/or Practice Briefs through ARL News and ARL Knowledge Portal
- Forum for public presentation of results
- Integration of Research Project deliverables and Practice Briefs into the Research Library Impact Framework
- Testing of recommended statistics resulting from Research Projects, for potential inclusion in future ARL Statistics

Successful Pilot Projects

- Show impact – intended & unintended
- Engage in collective, collaborative ARL research agenda
- Answer questions that we could not answer before
- Integrate results into strategic planning
- Build robust methodological pool of skills in the community of assessment practice
- Attract money & support
- View pilots as methodologically sound & rigorous
- Make evidence-based decisions
- Use &/or replicate the research produced
- Advance public good / show impact of library as cultural heritage institution
- Reinforce confidence in ARL's research agenda

Why Participate in a Library Impact Pilot?

1. **Get the answers you need to communicate library impact to your decision-makers.**
2. **Methodological flexibility** - a real opportunity to test and refine ideas.
3. **Collaborate and compare data and methods with peers** on topics highly-relevant to your own library.
4. **Pool research expertise and resources** for collective benefit.
5. **Foster a culture of assessment in your library** through participation in a formal, methodologically sound research project.
6. **Develop your staff's skills** while serving your local assessment needs, and contributing to ARL community.
7. **Build our community of practice.**

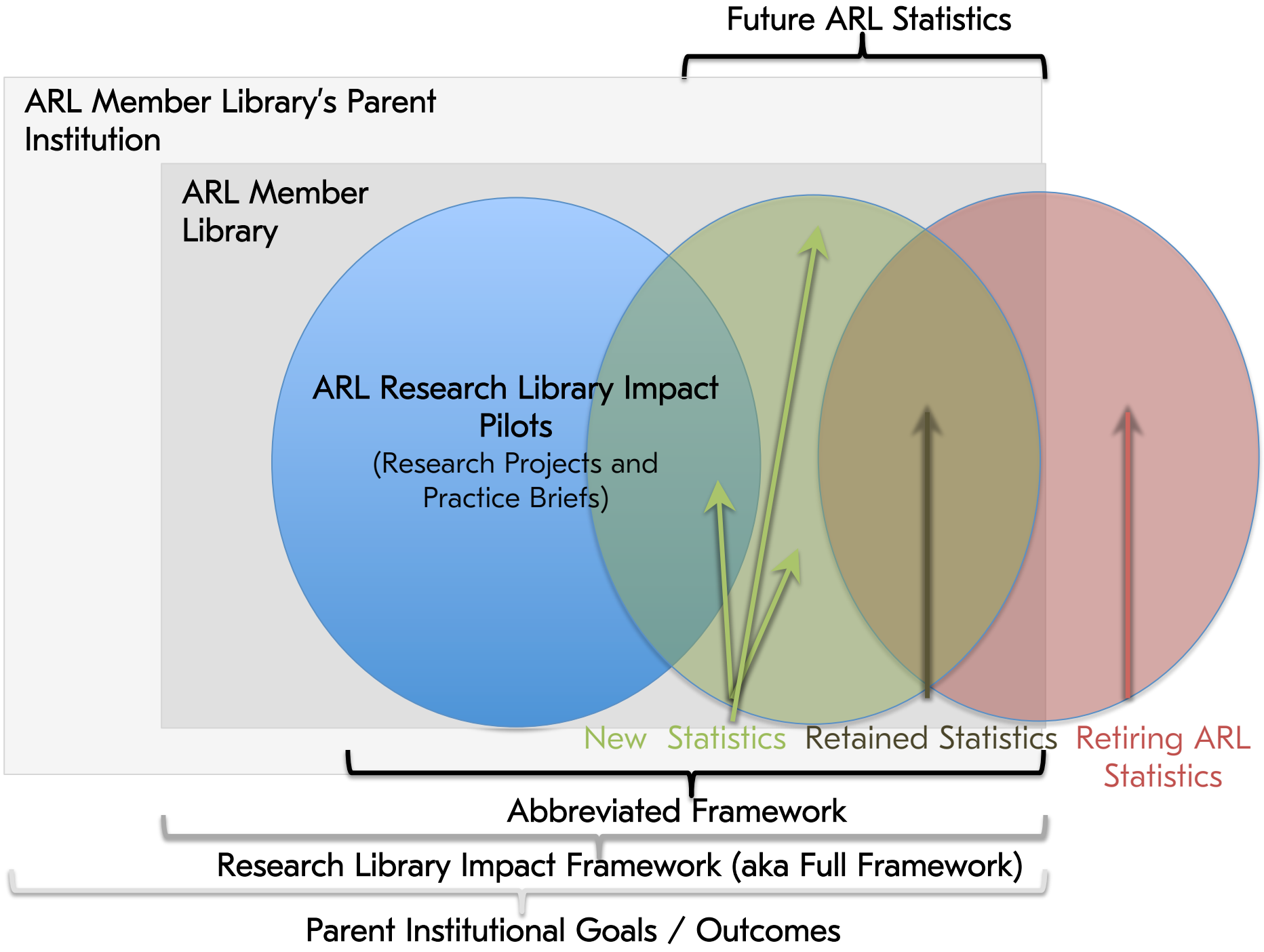
Next Steps

- Develop communications plan
- Disseminate framework & information regarding pilot projects
- Identify overlap & connections with other ARL priorities
- Solicit interest in leading & partnering on pilot projects
- Form project teams
- Launch pilots

Next Steps, cont.

Further refine and articulate relationships between:

- Framework and Pilots to Assessment Committee and the Research and Analytics Program
- Framework and ARL Statistics
- Framework and ARL Research Agenda
- Framework and Membership Criteria



Questions?