Introduction

What is the role of the university library system, in fulfilling Aoun’s directive concerning the online students? According to Northeastern University’s president, Joseph E. Aoun, “You have to be present on the ground, you have to understand the community, you have to become part of the community” in order to best serve online students’ and the communities where they are located (Johnson, 2012). There is a gap in knowledge among the satellite campuses in their students’ needs, the existing models of library systems serving online campuses, and the role of the library in the satellite campuses. The desire to create a library presence is muddled in the lack of knowledge of what is in existence, what is needed, and what is desired.

Process

1. Research the state of the library in online learning college environments to establish what research and knowledge already exists within Northeastern University and similar campuses.
2. Use existing surveys regarding university students’ present use of research and library material and their desired use of library resources.
3. Determine potential library space.

Guiding Questions

What exists?
What is needed?
What is desired?

Outcomes

- Shared resources: multi-library alliances
- Value-centered: timely and relevant
- Adaptable: conforms to user’s needs
- Embedded in courses: present in online learning platforms
- Accessible: information and librarians