LIBRARIES RESEARCH FUND APPLICATION FORM

The University of Kansas Libraries Administration allocates money each year for the purpose of furthering the research activities of all library faculty and unclassified professional staff for whom research is a part of their professional assignment. These funds are to be used for conducting research, to supplement other sources of research funding, and to assist librarians who have research opportunities that may result in out of pocket expenses.

Funds generally are awarded throughout the year as requests are submitted to the Committee on Research and Scholarly Activities. Requests should be detailed enough to communicate your needs clearly to the Committee. Supportive documentation can be attached to this form if it is highly relevant to the request. For international travel requests it is recommended that outside funding through the Office of International Programs be procured before or in parallel with an LRF application.

Please respond to the following questions. When finished, return the request to the current CRSA chair. If funding for the project is approved, a brief project description will be posted on the CRSA web page. LRF recipients will also be required to give a brief presentation about their project at a CRSA sponsored forum.

Name:  Sarah Goodwin Thiel__________________

Department:  Research & Learning Division_______

1. Title or brief description of project:
Research Project: To develop a workshop for both librarians and scholars that will introduce new ways to engage more effectively with their communities.

Librarians and Action Researchers: Partnering for Positive Change
The goal of the workshop is to help librarians and scholars identify shared missions, visions and values and learn to creatively and empathically determine high-impact opportunities that speak to the aspirations of their communities and move those aspirations into actions.

2. Describe the research project (e.g. article abstract, proposal):
With this project I hope to broaden my reach and work with librarians and “action researchers,” both campus and citizen scholars, to identify the strengths and values which support a transdisciplinary approach to community engagement. This will be done by merging the “turning outward,” community-facing communication method for gathering public information, as outlined by the Harwood Institute, with Design Thinking,
the design process which generates imaginative and creative solutions to complex challenges.

Attendees will learn and practice a toolkit to develop a narrative to surrounding, “Engaging with the Community.” For librarians and scholars to become a “force for positive change,” a paradigm shift in attitudes among all disciplines and stakeholders must begin. What if librarians and scholars are considered integral components of innovation teams - from the beginning? What if librarians and scholars are relied on for leadership in civic imagination? What if the first people considered for a community teams are librarians and campus scholars? This change will require a compelling narrative by these professionals to the various communities in which they engage.

3. Describe the purpose and final outcome of project (i.e. article, book, poster session, conference, etc.). If applicable, note the location where final project will be presented:

The final outcome of this project is a workshop (see description below) which will be offered to librarians throughout the region. I plan to work closely with the staff of the Northeast Kansas Library System (NEKLS) and others to identify librarians who are interested in engaging more closely with campus and citizen scholars in order to more effectively identify and address community needs and issues.

**Librarians and Action Researchers: Partnering for Positive Change**

A work-shop which considers the following questions: What does it mean to effectively engage with one’s community? What are the necessary strengths and values for success? I will suggest a holistic, transdisciplinary approach to community engaged scholarship by merging the “turning outward,” community-facing communication method for gathering public information, as outlined by the Harwood Institute, with Design Thinking, the design process which generates imaginative and creative solutions to complex challenges. The goal of the workshop is to help librarians and scholars identify shared missions, visions and values and learn to creatively and empathically determine high-impact opportunities that speak to the aspirations of communities and move those aspirations into actions.

4. Estimated time line for completion of project:

I will begin to develop the workshop in late November, after my return from the CARN conference. I plan to present this workshop to librarians and action researchers, starting in the spring of 2016, and will discuss my efforts at the March, 2016 Campus Compact 30th Anniversary
Conference, Boston, where I have been selected to make the presentation, *Academic libraries and community engagement: building with intention*.

5. **Provide an itemized estimation of expenses or evidence of actual accrued expenses, including any other sources of funding you have applied for or received for this project. Also, indicate the amount of LRF support that you are seeking and how the funds will be used.** *(The award must be completely spent by June 1 of the fiscal year in which it was awarded)*:

The LRF money I am requesting will help to cover the travel and/or registration costs of my November trip to Braga, Portugal where I have been asked to present a workshop at the *Collaborative Action Research Network (CARN) Conference, 2015: Action Research Across Disciplinary Settings*. Conference attendance and participation will allow me to reach out directly to scholars and share my expertise with effective community engagement. To date, my experience with community engagement has been directly with librarians, albeit in libraries of all types: academic, public, school, etc.

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**Amount Requested from LRF:** $800 - $1000

6. **If any part of your project is dependent on a contractual or other financial arrangement with a third party, please provide a copy of the written agreement outlining the services to be provided and the estimated cost.**
Signature: ______________

Date: 9/28/2015__________________________

Please do not fill out this portion of the form. This portion must be completed by the Committee for Research & Scholarly Activities.

Decision of Committee on Research and Scholarly Activities:
Funded:  Yes ___  No ___
If yes, amount funded __________
If no, reason for decision _____________________________________________

Signature of CRSA Representative: ___________________________________

Date: ___________________