



Karen Williams
Brief Biography

Karen Williams is currently an affiliate consultant with re:work library consulting and Dean Emeritus of University Libraries at the University of Arizona. She held a variety of leadership positions in the UA Libraries in her first 22 years there. She then served as Associate University Librarian for Research and Learning at the University of Minnesota from 2004 – 2013, returning to Arizona in 2013 as Dean of Libraries. In 2015 she assumed the role of Interim Vice President for Information Technology and CIO, and in 2017 was named Vice President for Information Strategy and University Libraries. She retired from the University of Arizona in July 2019.

Karen is a strong proponent of shared leadership and collaborative endeavors both across a campus and between institutions. She has been very active professionally for her entire career. She served as a Board member of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) from 2004 – 2008 and was President of ACRL in 2014. She is currently serving a four-year term on the Steering Committee of the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC). She was a founding member of two very successful international professional programs, the Institute for Information Literacy Immersion Program, and the ARL (Association for Research Libraries) / ACRL Scholarly Communication Institute and served as faculty for both Institutes for a number of years.

Karen has been giving presentations, conducting workshops, writing about and consulting with academic institutions for the past three decades. Particular areas of focus include:

- Information literacy; including teaching and learning, assessment, and educational leadership.
- Scholarly Communication; including copyright, author rights, open access, and open educational resources.
- New roles for academic libraries; organizational redesign, strategic planning.

Locally, Karen serves on the Foundation Board for the Pima County Public Library, the Advisory Board for the MA degree in the UA School of Information, and she volunteers with Literacy Connects.