Reaching Beyond Departmental Borders: A New Librarian’s Quest for Knowledge

Neyda V. Gilman, Resident Librarian
Syracuse University Libraries, Syracuse NY

The Main Characters in This Story

The New Librarian
The New Librarian is a Resident Librarian whose main goal is to gain experience. Residing in the Learning Commons department, the New Librarian brings new ideas, a fresh perspective, and different skills to the Libraries.

Abilities:
- Although the Learning Commons department focuses on serving the undergraduate population, the Resident is free to explore the Libraries in order to best accomplish her goals.
- A two year term allows the Resident to focus on finding knowledge and experiences.

The Science Liaison
The Science Liaison is an experienced Librarian working with science disciplines. Residing in the Department of Research and Scholarship, the Science Liaison provides services that “advance faculty and student excellence.”

Abilities:
- The Science Liaison works with faculty members in addition to undergraduates and graduate students.
- Being part of a larger department and having more responsibilities, the Science Liaison has a wider range of roles and more opportunities for instruction.

Quest Journal
2013, 29th June
1st Entry, My Story:

My previous life was in Science and I started down the path to Librarianship just a few short years ago. My quest for knowledge has no end. I continue to work towards gaining knowledge and building a bridge between Science and Librarianship.

I have discovered that in order to get the knowledge I want, it is necessary to cross into the Department of Research and Scholarship. This way done by a simple email introducing myself and asking about opportunities to help or shadow in liaison duties.

Quest Journal
2014, 29th January
4th Entry, Maintain communication:

In order to be able to continue crossing borders the line of communication must stay open.

Everyone Wins!

Reaching beyond departmental borders is a winning strategy.
- The Science Liaison: Exposed to fresh new ideas, and get help with their workload.
- The Department: Open lines of communication lead to increased understanding and collaboration.
- Faculty and Students: Have more contacts and get improved service.
- The New Librarian: Pursues her quest for knowledge and opens up more opportunities.

Quest Journal
2013, 10th July
2nd Entry, Take the first step:

I started this quest by reaching out to one of the Science Librarians. This was done by a simple email introducing myself and asking about opportunities to help or shadow in liaison duties.