

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

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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 undergraduate 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 the Department of Research and Scholarship.

This journal lays out the steps I took on this quest and how I have reached across borders to accomplish goals. These same steps can be taken by anyone looking to continue their own quest.



Experience level

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.

- Create science related Subject Guides
- Take over instruction sessions.
- Observe & co-teach instruction sessions.
- Develop relationships with science faculty.
- Provide remote reference in Life Sciences building.

Item Acquired! The Cardigan of Learning



Experience level

Quest Journal
2013, 5th August
3rd Entry,
Keep Reaching:
I reached out to additional liaisons to explore different experiences.

& Respond:
As I continued on my quest I became more comfortable to answer calls for help.

- Assist with collection development.
- Build relationships with student groups.
- Teach PubMed section of instruction sessions.
- Teach new sections of RefWorks instruction sessions.
- Collaborate on designing EngVite class.

Item Acquired! The Sensible Shoes of Knowledge



Experience level

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.

- Attend Science Librarian monthly meetings.
- Take on responsibilities of librarian on maternity leave.
- Become member of citations team.

Item Acquired! The Cat of Wisdom



Experience level

Everyone Wins!

Reaching beyond departmental borders is a winning strategy.

- The Science Liaisons: Exposed to fresh new ideas, and get help with their workload.
- The Departments: Open lines of communication lead to increased understanding and collaboration.
- Faculty and Students: Have more contacts and get improved service.
- The New Librarian: Furthers her quest for knowledge and opens up more opportunities.

