

Disruption, Alignment, and Embedded Librarianship: Connecting the Dots, and Avoiding the Pitfalls

Special Libraries Association Annual Conference, Vancouver, June 8, 2014

There were over 50 participants in this modified knowledge café. Because the number was too large, and the time too short, for every participant to give concluding remarks orally, participants were asked to write their concluding comments on flip charts or sticky notes.

This is a transcription of all comments posted, in no particular order.

--Dave Shumaker

1. Get the newbies
2. Advertise yourself (ex. Newsletters)
3. Assessment – what do they need & are you giving them that?
4. Meet personally w. your audience: researchers, Dr's, University faculty, etc. & get to know each individual's (your subject/dept.) research, needs, etc. = personal contact & insight
5. We need a place – SLA SIG maybe? – where we can continue this discussion!
6. Use your champions but have a plan for success!
7. Be aware of trends & developments in your community; find ways to integrate yourself / support activities
8. In academic libraries, there is a whole spectrum between subject liaison and embedded librarianship
9. Difference between truly shared goals and librarian's own vaguely defined "outreach" goal (← not really embedded)
10. Go around the room & ask students for one take-away after a guest lecture.
11. Academic librarians do not define embedded librarianship the same/one way.
12. Catch new hires & offer orientation on info/corporate resources. They will remember the source (you!) as they go up the corporate ladder.
13. Document your job so all involved know your capabilities.
14. Embedded librarianship involves teaching, conducting lit. reviews, data management, and building & maintaining relationships in many ways. Sometimes it involves distance as well.
15. Manage the strategy & obtain feedback on a regular basis.
16. Define success. Find a champion.
17. Don't be afraid to say No.
18. "Embedded" can have different meanings depending on your organization – academic vs. corporate.
19. Embedded librarians need more specific resources.
20. Ask for 5 minutes of their time to come to the classroom or a meeting.
21. I feel "embedded" is such a funny term. Everyone defined it differently. Hard to know what I am striving for.
22. Go to the meetings and become familiar w/ the group and their mission, projects.
23. Need to really think thru the entire process

- a. With whom to embed
 - b. How to approach
 - c. Nature of service provided
 - d. Finding a champion & encouraging their ongoing support
 - e. Planning evaluation at the start
 - f. Project management throughout
24. Surveys for assessment
25. There is no one definition of embedded librarianship – every institution is doing something different
26. Helped validate a lot of the approach we are taking. Offered some really useful practical examples. Interesting to hear so much from academic librarians – offers a different perspective vs. industry.