Embedded Librarianship: Librarian and Faculty Perspectives

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Overview

Unique perspectives from faculty and librarian personal experiences

Evolution of embedded librarianship in a variety of disciplines

Intersection with current best practices
Embedded librarianship...

...involves focus on the needs of one or more specific groups, building relationships with these groups, developing a deep understanding of their work, and providing information services that are highly customized and targeted to their greatest needs.

Shumaker & Tally 2009
“Embedding requires more direct and purposeful interaction than acting in parallel with another person, group, or activity.”

Dewey 2004
Business
One of the benefits of doing a continuous collaboration is the ability to assess, change, and evolve.
Overall, this has evolved into a true co-teaching, collaborative effort and program, which is a thread throughout the course and class.
Sociology
Unique opportunities for experimentation and teachable moments are a result of ample class time and the in-depth knowledge of student needs and course content I am able to acquire only through embedded librarianship.
Our collaboration continues to help students understand the link of “inequalities” and the importance of assessing information to understand sociology and the global world that they live in.
Communications
Embedded librarianship is an evolving relationship. It is not something that you can jump into, there has to be a gradual buildup, and you cannot go into a one-shot session expecting that it will develop into a co-teaching embedded experience. At the same time, you have to be open to the possibility.
Were I University Czar, I would form a commission to rewrite librarian contracts to capitalize on the barely realized opportunities for teaching and learning across the university campus.
Going beyond the discipline

Writing for social media & media literacy

Informational inequalities

Cultural intelligence & sensitivity
A robust faculty-librarian partnership can enhance instruction.

Cassidy and Hendrickson 2013

Unique insight into what each other does and how it helps students.
New opportunities

Assessment

Instruction techniques

Wikipedia Education Program
Beneficial for students

“Co-teaching is an iterative process, and each class affirms the instructional goals to explain and highlight the interplay of conducting research and producing research.”

Garson and McGowan 2010
Best Practices
The key to a successful embedded course experience lies in the strength of the faculty-librarian partnership.

For embedded librarianship in a course to be effective, there must be collaboration, communication, and trust between faculty and librarian.
Librarians must assert themselves and take an active role in the course. While faculty are usually the ones who initiate the process, it is only by establishing an equal and reciprocal collaboration that these experiences thrive.

Meulemans and Carr 2012
Embedded librarians should strive to become immersed in the culture and spaces of users and offer convenient and user-friendly services outside library settings.

Kvenild and Calkins 2011
Final thoughts

Embedded librarianship is a unique form of collaboration available to faculty and librarians—the fact that it is constantly evolving means it is adaptable for anyone who wants to try it to make it their own.
References


