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You do what? Librarian positions within university/college teaching and learning environments

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You do what? Librarian Positions within University/College Teaching and Learning Environments

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Librarians’ Changing Roles

- Librarian of the Past
  - People
  - Books

- Librarian of Today?
  - Technology
  - Instruction/Service
  - Collaboration
  - Collections – Books, Databases, web
  - Leadership

(Bell & Shank, 2004, s. 2)
“Changing Learning, Changing Roles: it Takes a Village”

- Teaching
- Critical Thinking
- Technology
- Research-Based Learning
- Inquiry Learning
- Assessment
- Information Literacy
- Problem-Based Learning
- E-learning
- Pedagogy
- Content
- Learning

(Lannuzzi, 2005, s. 28)

Librarians are all a part of this!
Who am I?

Information Resources Director
IUPUI Center for Teaching & Learning

Other names: Center for Teaching Excellence, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, etc.
What the Center does:

- Conducts individual/school/department consultations to *enhance faculty teaching skills*
- Sponsors and coordinates workshops for teaching enhancement
- Provides support for the use of technology in the classroom
What the Center does, cont’d.

- Support grant-funded projects/programs where faculty develop new course or restructure and implement new teaching methodologies
- Researches the effectiveness of various teaching strategies, instructional technology, information resources
- Unite faculty with appropriate subject librarians
- Promote information literacy awareness
The Center is a safe environment

- Faculty can use as
  - Exploration Center
  - Help Center
  - Work Center
  - Retreat Center
Center Staff (Roles)

- Instructional Design Consultant
- Instructional Technology Consultants
- Librarian > Subject Librarians
- Faculty Member

“Maintain and strengthen communication and collaboration between partners to develop best practices in teaching & learning”

(Zimmerman, 2005)
What I do specifically

- Conduct faculty consultations concerning library resources, utilizing technology to access those resources, and teaching information literacy concepts
- Provide teaching resources and activities that promote successful information literacy teaching
- Unite faculty with appropriate subject librarians
What I do specifically, cont’d.

- Coordinate CTL/Library sponsored workshops highlighting library resources and exploring information literacy issues
- Sponsor technology and teaching workshops with librarians
- Provide librarian support for Center for Teaching and Learning & Office of Professional Development projects & initiatives
- Promote information literacy awareness
It’s a *Formal* Relationship!

- My office is in the Center for Teaching & Learning
- Appointed by Dean of University Library
- 25% - 50% appointment
University/College Library Relationships with Teaching Centers

- There are relationships
  - Jacobson article
    - Instruction librarians reach out
    - Administrators less likely to appoint
    - Instruction coordinator – serves as liaison
    - Librarians ask for support for their teaching
    - Interestingly… Centers are often housed in Libraries

(Jacobson, 2001)
IT and Librarian Collaboration

- “Talking Toward Techno-Pedagogy” – Mellon Grant/Bryn Mawr Institute

Case Studies of:
- Mount Holyoke – merging of instructional technology and librarian departments
- University of Massachusetts Amherst - physical distance/formalized structure of departments
  - “Get out of the office” to form collaborative teaching roles vs. traditional support staff roles

(Boisselle & Mestre, 2004)
Workshop collaborations

- University of Notre Dame
- Virginia Tech

(Warner & Seamans, 2004)
Idea of “Blended Librarian”

- Steven Bell
  - Director of the Paul J. Gutman Library
    Philadelphia University
- John Shank
  - Instructional Design Librarian and Director of the Center for Learning Technologies
    Penn State Berks-Lehigh College

http://blendedlibrarian.org/
Blended Librarian Defined:

- Librarians who have
  - Instructional Technology Component
  - Instructional Design Component

“An academic librarian who combines the traditional skills set of librarianship with the information technologist’s hardware/software skills, and the instructional or educational designer’s ability to apply technology appropriately in the teaching-learning process”

(Bell & Shank, 2006)
Shank Study

- Instructional Design Librarian possesses:
  - MLS or MIS degree (or equivalent degree)
  - Web and other multimedia software experience
  - Experience with current & emergent instructional technologies
  - Skill in utilizing current & emergent instructional technologies
  - Instructional/training skills
  - Excellent communication skills & organizational skills

(Shank & Shaughnessy, 2006)
Shank Study Cont’d.

- Responsibilities that an instructional design librarian will have:
  - creating & assessing online library instructional resources
  - Utilizing existing & emerging instructional technologies
  - Participating in library instructional programs
  - Providing reference services
  - Training faculty & staff

(Shank & Shaughnessy, 2006)
Shank’s research cont’d.

- Importance of:
  - Computer Skills
  - Instruction Skills

Cannot be understated!
The website states:

“It is designed to encourage and enable academic librarians to evolve into a new role that *blends* existing library and information skills with those of instructional design and technology.”

(Bell & Shank, 2006)
I found this place early on…

- **Tales from a Librarian-Instructional Designer Partnership: Sharing Resources and Knowledge to Support Course Development**
  Wednesday, September 27, 2006 - 3 pm EST

- **Conversations with Patrons: Extending Your Library's Presence Online**
  Tuesday, October 31, 2006 - 2 pm EST
Who Frequents Blended Librarian.org?

- Instructional Librarians
- Instructional Technology Librarians
- Instructional Design Librarians
Shank’s research/chat input

- Instructional technology librarian
- Instructional design librarian
- Learning technologies librarian
- Instructional Development librarian
- Training & Development librarian
- Teaching & Learning librarian
- Outreach librarian

(Shank & Shaughnessy, 2006)
Starr’s Research – New Job Titles

- Library Educational Technology Coordinator
- Technology Coordinator
- Electronic Resources Librarian
- Digital Information Services Librarian
- Information Technology Specialist

(Starr, 2004)
Getting back to what I do – it’s a blended environment!

- **Technology**
  - OncourseCL – Library Resources
  - MetaSearch tool – Linking articles/Course reserves
  - Linking to our electronic books

- **Information Literacy**
  - INFLITE tutorial

- **Resources**
  - Communication Studies Guide
Good things

- Building Relationships
- Center staff recognize me as knowledgeable on “all things library”
- Formalized position to be a part of faculty development initiatives
Challenges

- Space – still too separated
- “Team Teaching” idea is in pockets – not wide spread
- Constantly have to evangelize
Leave you today with some questions…

- What collaborations does your campus have between faculty teaching centers/faculty development programs and librarians?

- How would you envision taking the blended librarian philosophy and using it to facilitate collaboration & partnerships?

(Bell & Shank, October 2004)
Questions?

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