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Love Your Keyboard! Professional Writing for Librarians

Emily Ford
Portland State University, forder@pdx.edu

Kim Leeder
College of Western Idaho

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Love Your Keyboard! Professional Writing for Librarians - In-session Activity

Participants of the session engaged in the inquiry process as focused in 4 areas of librarianship: Public Services & Programming; Teaching & Learning; Leadership & Management; Collections & Technical Services. Additionally, the workshop moderators engaged in the inquiry process regarding Publishing in Librarianship. The following are snapshots of the brainstorming that took place.

Public Services and Programming - 1
Challenges
- Publicity/getting word out
- Staffing & Staff buy-in
- Support
- Real interest
- Regulations of system

Define unconventional
- Hold/host in Steam punk
  a variety of spaces
  - They don’t always
    work/traditional library
  programs (Book related)

Test the limits of a libraries purpose.
“what is a library for?”
What would we do?
- Ask libraries for examples & pros of
  unconventional programs
- Community assessment, populations & services
 you are missing
  - Where are the people you want to reach
Unconventional Library Programs
- What are the benefits of doing them?
  - Types
    - Different audiences/populations that might be reached
    - New feel/atmosphere for the library
    - Being a leader/changing image in community
    - Utilizing different spaces
  - New library users
    - Increased awareness
    - New programs
      - We know
        - Variety of abilities
        - Reaches a wide audience
        - Included
        - Exciting
        - Can be hard to find support
        - Expands perception of library
Teaching & Learning

* Finishing (projects)
* Flow
* Creativity
* Service model transferability
* New staff instruction
* Instruction in "other" libraries (archives)
Flow: What promotes/inhibits student flow states?

- Modeling (libraries)
- Promotion/interruption

Librarians modeling encourage student flow ~ increased flow job satisfaction

- Training for flow
- Managing " " (A)
LEADERSHIP + MANAGEMENT

Leading From Your Strengths
How not to Read (Lead)
Motivating + Facilitating Change
Leading From the Backseat
Everyone is a Leader
Mentor Leadership
Introvert at the wheel
Ethical Leadership
WHAT ARE THE Pros + Cons of Introverted Leadership

(Oppotunities) (Challenges)

Detail orientated
Aware of bigger picture
Lots of Ideas

Lack of required social skills (Solution: staff to meet those needs)
Controlling—hard to let others help
 Trouble communicating/implementing them

Journals/Articles
Focus Groups With Introverted vs. Extraverted Directors

vs. Their Extraverted or Introverted Staff
- To discover more Pros/Cons
- Ideas of how to improve cons/implement pros
TECHNICAL SVCS + COLLECTIONS

Star Reviews
Mending Books
Teen Non-Fiction
  - Location in library
  - Type of materials
  - Size relative to genre fiction
  - Promotion
  - Books published by children
Survey - Interviews Schools

Did you notice we moved collection?
What else would you like to see here?
What do you like the best here?
What doesn't belong?

Support materials?
Teen Non-Fiction

How do we make the teen non-fiction more relevant?

Case study - Moved Teen NF to Teen Section from Adult NF

Promotion
Size of collection

Budget - Number of published materials
Use - Who uses Teen NF
Do teens use other (Adult) NF?

Pop culture oriented vs. reference oriented
Publishing in Librarianship

- Recruiting + advertising + $
- Supporting new authors

Print, online

Open review, peer review

Journal management, is peer review sustainable?

Does LIS publish too many journals?

Does LIS publish pre-print? APCs

Improving the writing skills of LIS professionals

Demolishing the writing skills of LIS professionals

Open access, editorial process, marketing

Editorial authority?
Things are changing...
Moving online from print.
Don't actually need vol/iss.
Not publishing paper iss.

Survey: Publishers
why are you using vol/iss?

Survey: Readers
how do you use vol/iss?

Journals
Ed boards are mostly conservative
want to maintain legitimacy

Inst. like OASPA needs some formalized
structures to have journals play.

Theory: Publishers do it like expected.
Readers don't care.
Demolishing Volumes & Issues

Do traditional publishing structures matter in print?

Where is publishing going?

Do we need volumes & issues to be a "respectable publication" or will perceived legitimacy change?

To what extent is it needed for a publication to be perceived as legit?
The Inquiry Process

While everyone’s research and writing process is unique, we all follow common steps in completing a project. Being aware of these phases can help us become more deliberate and effective writers.

Time Management & Productivity

Any time that you spend writing will be a tradeoff that draws time from other activities. Acknowledge and embrace the fact that when writing, you are NOT doing something else. Finding time to write is all about managing your priorities.

Tips:

- Schedule time to write on your calendar and honor it.
- Value your writing time as much as you value other precious things in your job.
- Find support for your writing either via social media or form a writing group.
- Set incremental, achievable goals and deadlines.
- Track your progress.
- Keep a journal.

Getting Published

Getting published is as much about how good are your ideas, how well you can write, and your relationships. This does not mean you need to be the most networked person in libraries! Here are some dos for getting published.

Do:

- Query editors early. Contact the editors at relevant publication venues with an abstract of your work to see if they would be interested in publishing your completed manuscript.
- Write with a journal/publisher in mind. It will be easier to frame your arguments, use the style required by a publication, and motivate your efforts if you can identify your audience before you begin the process.
- Structure your writing around a central argument. Most publishing rejections occur because manuscripts do not present a position, theory, or argument.
- Follow all editorial guidelines for a publication as outlined by a publication’s web site or communication with editors.
- Have someone else read and edit your work before you submit it.
- Submit your best work.
Love Your Keyboard! Professional Writing for Librarians: A Bibliography

Guides and Handbooks


Writing Exercises


Odegaard Writing & Research Center: Writing Resources. http://depts.washington.edu/owrc/WritingResources.html (see specifically the handouts section)

Advice/Inspiration


Case Studies/How I did it


Academic Articles


