What faculty actually think librarians do.

Katy Nelson, Science Librarian
May 29, 2016
Who, what, when, where, why
Literature review, methods

• Few studies, mainly focusing on information literacy collaborations – health sciences, social sciences


• Interviews with faculty members from my departments

• Ethics review
Participants

• 156 faculty invited, 27 interviewed
• Faculties of Science and Engineering
• 6 depts represented (2 Science, 4 Engineering)
Participants cont.

• 20 males, 7 females
• 17 Professors
• 6 Associate Professors
• 1 Assistant Professor
• 2 Assistant Teaching Professors
• 1 Adjunct Professor
• Years at UVic from <1 to >33 years
Interviews

• 15 – 45 minutes, audio recordings
• 11 questions
The questions

• What do you think librarians at UVic do?
• In your opinion, what is the most important thing librarians do at UVic?
• What do you personally value about the work librarians at UVic do?
Analysis

• Coded answers
• Common response – “I don’t know”
• Noted follow up actions for new Science & Engineering librarian
What do Librarians do?

- Research support (access to literature) 18
- Teach (library instruction) 0
- Management of library (organize, maintain) 17
- Collection development (buy books, journals, make budget decisions) 18
- Reference/student support (answer questions) 7
What is the MOST Important thing Librarians do?

- Research support (access to literature) 16
- Teach (library instruction) 1
- Management of library (organize, maintain) 14
- Collection development (buy books, journals, make budget decisions) 7
- Reference/student support (answer questions) 5
Comparison of what librarians do and what is MOST Important thing librarians do

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What librarians do</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Most important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Research support</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Teaching</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Manage Library</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Collection</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Reference assistance</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What do you personally value about the work Librarians do?

- Research support (access to literature) 15
- Students, teaching, courses (support) 8
- Idea of a library or a university (place of knowledge) 6
Direct quotes from faculty

“help me do my job”
“cannot envision a university without librarians and library”
“support in the undergraduate curriculum”
“ease of access to resources and guidance finding weird stuff”
More questions

- How do librarians at UVic assist with student learning/information literacy?
- Tell me about a time when a UVic librarian assisted you in your teaching role?
- How do librarians at UVic assist researchers?
- Tell me about a time when a UVic librarian assisted you in your research?
Comparison: how librarians assist with student learning to how librarians assist faculty in their teaching role

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Teaching Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Reserve</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Classes/training by librarian</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Collection</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>One on one help</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Online resources</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Don’t know/never</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Comparison: how librarians assist researchers to how librarians assist you (faculty member) with your research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assist Researchers</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Assist with your research</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>ILL</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Collection</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Journal access</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Finding materials</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Literature searching/training</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Don’t know/ NA</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Even more questions

- Do you get sufficient access to your subject librarian? Why or why not?
- How would you like to communicate with your librarian?
- How does your experience with academic librarians at other institutions compare with UVic?
Access & contact

- Almost every (25/27) interviewee said Yes to sufficient access to subject librarian
- Preferred contact – often multiple responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Count (Preferred)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td>22 (11 preferred)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In person (face to face)</td>
<td>12 (4 preferred)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>8 (0 preferred)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recommendations from faculty

- Face to face meetings with faculty
- Provost to schedule more new faculty orientations with librarian presenters
- More librarian involvement with grad students & upper level undergrads
- Open access sessions for faculty
- Charge researchers for ILL ($0.99 per article)
- “Take on publishers” support OA publishing
- Provide support to grant proposal writing
- Librarians be more “science literate”
My recommendations

- Develop relationships
- Promote your services continuously
- Don’t assume faculty understand your role
Conclusions?

• Positive experience
• Relationships
• SERVICE (Professional Practice) is only known job for librarians
• Future collaborations for library instruction
• Faculty members learned about library services and librarian jobs
Questions? Comments?

- Study leave report will be deposited in UVicSpace in June 2016
- [https://dspace.library.uvic.ca/](https://dspace.library.uvic.ca/) (browse author Katy Nelson)
- Bibliography available upon request (katnel@uvic.ca)

- Thank you!