

## Background

- Many academic librarians find it challenging to meet the scholarly research requirements of tenure and promotion due to their lack of training (2). Gaining experience and confidence early in the career is critical for new academic librarians.
- A study by Ackerman (1) found that many early career librarians described the process of learning while conducting research with more experienced librarians as critical to fostering their research success and confidence.

## When the Learner is a Librarian in Training

- Library students and recent graduates are librarians in training and applying learner-centered teaching practices to this training is beneficial to both the student and library.
- Fieldwork or training that involves independent research in coordination with a supervisor provides valuable experience when entering into the profession. Writing a paper for publication as part of the fieldwork project provides a supportive environment to gain valuable research experience as well as setting expectations for the level of work that will be expected of a new librarian.
- Most students only have experience with hypothetical school assignments and the fieldwork experience can give the student a more practical application for the foundational knowledge gained during school.
- Interactions with more experienced librarians and new perspectives also adds to the professional development of the library student or new librarian.

- Provides hands-on practice
- Application of knowledge and skills learned in school

It can be difficult for students and new librarians to gain research experience and achieve their first publication.



## Benefits to the Library

- The fieldwork student can be used as additional help to larger research projects.  
The end result of the case study suggested best practices for online delivery, assessment, and storage of learning objects used/created by the librarians.
- The library contributes to more competent graduates in the field and both the librarians and students gain new perspectives.

## Shimberg Fieldwork Project

- The fieldwork project started as an examination of current instructional offerings at USF's Schimberg Library.
- The student interacted with the REU librarians to learn their unique instructional perspectives based on the needs of their Colleges and students.
- The original deliverable was to be a matrix of current instructional modules/trainings currently offered/created by Shimberg librarians. Following the student's interest in gaining experience with the publication process and research, the student's contribution to the project changed.
- The student had the opportunity to contribute to a large project, work with a variety of librarians, and gain experience with the publication process.
- The end result of the fieldwork project was a literature review to be submitted for publication.

- Student given some control over project
- Uses collaboration as a teaching method
- Results in first publication

## References

1. Ackerman E, Hunter J, Wilkinson ZT (2018). The Availability and Effectiveness of Research Supports for Early Career Academic Librarians. *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 44(5), 553-568. doi:10.1016/j.acalib.2018.06.001
2. Blakesley, E. (2016). The constraints of practice, or we work in libraries, that's why we can't do research. *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 42(6), 635. doi: 10.1016/j.acalib.2016.10.014

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