Sleeping with the Enemy: Demystifying Faculty-Librarian Relationships

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Sleeping with the Enemy: Demystifying Faculty/Librarian Relationships

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Metrolina Library Association Conference

June 5, 2019
### Tackling an “Us/Them” Mentality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty think...</th>
<th>Librarians think...</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>◇ Don’t use library resources</td>
<td>◇ Expect faculty to look at everything on our website</td>
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<tr>
<td>◇ Assume we have everything they used in grad school</td>
<td>◇ Expect faculty to know what we have</td>
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<tr>
<td>◇ Have ridiculous assignments</td>
<td>◇ Think faculty should bring all their classes to the library</td>
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<tr>
<td>◇ Use old assignments no longer supported by the library</td>
<td>◇ Think faculty don’t have enough to do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>◇ Think all we do is sit around and read</td>
<td>◇ Think faculty don’t know what we do</td>
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Pleading
“We have asked the library several times to purchase JSTOR for Social Sciences with no success.”
(Dec. 11, 2008)

Wailing
“When I came to GWU in 2011, I assumed we had JSTOR. Imagine my surprise to find that we did not.”
(History professor)

Gnashing of Teeth
“JSTOR, JSTOR, JSTOR”
(2015 Library Faculty Survey)
First discussion with Social Sciences faculty, began subscribing to Language & Literature Collection. Could not afford Arts & Sciences Collection. (Dean Parry)

Conversation was revisited, affordability and accessibility of History journals continued to be challenges. (Dean Roby)

Conversation revisited a third time, affordability and accessibility still barriers, but we take a different approach. (Dean Dennis)
JSTOR Essentials

700 core titles
45 disciplines

Foundational content in Social Sciences & Humanities.

3,740,953 Articles
Basic & Advanced Research Levels
Is there a clearer version of this graphic?
After negotiating the base price and annual subscription, we realized that we still could not afford JSTOR. We crafted a plan to ask faculty to help with the start-up expenses.
Successful Conversations with Faculty

Presented cost share idea to Provost, Council of Schools, Council of Arts & Sciences, & individual departments.

$7,000 in faculty & departmental contributions
Weeding & Collection Management

**Moment of Truth**
86% of our collection was published before 2000.
Faculty/Students perceived our collection as “old.”
Good content is hidden, and hidden content is inaccessible.

**Craft a Plan**
Decide where to focus our efforts.
Consider partnerships, disciplines where weeding would have high impact, start small and scale up.
Education, Business, Computer Science, Fiction, and Natural Sciences.

**Liaise with Faculty**
Create partnerships that work and function. Ad-hoc committee, small group, one or two key faculty.
Develop a communication pathway that works for the group. Keep expectations reasonable, set deadlines.
VHS is a good weeding gateway drug.
Blessed are the peacemakers...

Make “thou shalt nots” a thing of the past.
Bring up the Bodies
Biology faculty placed 3D anatomical references on reserve at the library.

Nursing students started checking them out.

Nursing and Biology began collaborating on purchases and sharing the materials.
Facilitate partnerships between departments

- Physician’s Assistant & Nurse Practitioner Programs - both programs wanted evidence-based, patient care sheets.

- Up-to-Date, Clinical Skill, Clinical Key

- Ask questions and continually revisit conversations.

Ask questions about what your departments want and need. Don’t perpetuate leftover resource prejudice of former faculty.
Small collaborations have big impact too

CETL Reads

Attend & participate in your local CETL.

Join faculty-wide reads and discussions.

Student Scholarship

LOTS (Life of the Scholar) Conference.

Campus Wide Support

Plug-in in unexpected ways.

Parade of Tables, Art Sale
Looking Forward

Program Collaboration:
Information Literacy & Writing Intensive

Working with Chemistry with a little help from our Library friends

Faculty Tenure and Promotion
Saving money on low-use databases allows for purchase of high-impact resources
Embrace the faculty they are not the enemy – they are your comrades in arms. Any questions?