LIBRARIAN TRANSFORMATION: TEACHING DISCIPLINARY COURSES

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NEW ROLES FOR LIBRARIANS


Leveraging to Liaison Model (2014)
PURDUE UNIVERSITY

- Librarians are tenure-track / tenured faculty
  - MLS or PhD in the liaison area
- 37 librarians (includes administrators)
- 12 libraries – no main library
- Fall 2016 Student enrollment
  - 30,043 undergraduate students
  - 9,461 graduate students
  - 947 professional students
NEW ROLES = TEACHING CREDIT CLASSES

- 2 models for new opportunities
  - Existing disciplinary classes
  - Creating new classes
TEACHING DISCIPLINARY CLASSES

- Leverage disciplinary degrees
  - Faculty fellow program in First Year Engineering

- Build partnerships with new degrees
  - Transdisciplinary Studies in Technology

- Connections from calls for participation; time ‘buy-out’
  - One 3 or 4 credit class is typically a 25% buy-out
NEW COURSE DEVELOPMENT

- Experiences of colleagues at Purdue
  - BioChemistry – Introduction to R
    - Look at department offerings and fill a gap
  - Agriculture – Data Management
    - Developed out of liaison work
  - Anthropology – GIS for Humanities and Social Sciences
    - Grew from work with researchers and student requests for instruction
TIPS AND ADVICE

- Good connections with departments
  - Outgrowth of typical liaison work
  - Department connections / champions
  - Work with department administrative assistants / associate deans for required course paperwork
    - Leverage special topics listings (rotating course titles)
    - Short courses – 8 week options
    - Start with non-credit bearing
TIPS AND ADVICE

- Engage active learning techniques
- Honors college – other new endeavors
  - Requests for new classes and new types of connections
- Faculty status – definitely helps
- Negotiate compensation and official listing as instructor of record
BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES

Benefits
- Improved perception as faculty
- Leads to more connections and requests
- Connecting with students
- Have context for including IL skills

Challenges
- Time intensive
- Potentially reach fewer students