myLibrarian: A practical and conceptual evolution of personal librarian programs

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http://hdl.handle.net/1880/113156
conference poster

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A PRACTICAL & CONCEPTUAL EVOLUTION OF PERSONAL LIBRARIAN PROGRAMS

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PARTICIPANTS
- PLPs have not changed dramatically
- Today’s students and unique settings require new approaches

LITERATURE
- Peak of PLP creation was the early 2010s
- Students less likely to engage with widespread emails
- New students do not often understand how the library/librarian can help them

PROGRAMMING
- myLibrarian is an opt-in program for new undergraduates
- It encourages students to find and reach out to their librarian as early as possible
- Programming includes curated newsletters, special events, meet and greet opportunities and research consultations

RESULTS
- Program has been well received across campus
- Number of registered students in pilot year under 50. Goal is to expand significantly
- Program scales up easily
- Works well with liaison program

QUESTIONS
- Are you considering a PLP?
- Any questions or input on this iteration of a PLP?

The personal librarian program (PLP) has been a key outreach program for academic libraries

However typical program formats over the past 20 years have constraints.

The myLibrarian program incorporates new customization for 2021:

1. Student opt-in
2. Builds off existing liaison librarian contacts
3. Equity, Diversity & Inclusion aspects

Existing subject librarian
1. Find someone who knows my subject:
- Anthropology
- Archeology
- Architecture & Landscape
- Architecture & Special Collections
- Art
- Asian Studies
- Biological Sciences
- Business
- Canadian Studies
- Chemistry
- Chinese Language and literature

Unique student background
2. Or find someone who can relate:
- First-in-family
- Student parent
- International
- Indigenous
- Mature
- With learning disability
- With physical disability
- Student athlete
- Open Studies
- LGBTIQ2S+
- Transfer
- Continuing Education

Student primary language
3. Or find someone who speaks my language:
- Chinese
- French
- German
- Mandarin
- Spanish
- Tagalog

Sample Newsletter

Email Metrics

ACRL Conference, April 13-16, 2021