Making the modern academic librarian

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The OSC at Cambridge
The problem...
Who is working in scholarly communication?

Where are they coming from?
The future?
Challenges

Not always taught in ‘library schools’

Fast moving area

Competition for training time

Lack of awareness of the need for these skills
Training at Cambridge
Continuous educational programme

Aim = provide a high standard of researcher support through librarian education
Supporting Researchers in the 21st Century

Covers a wide range of scholarly communication topics

Open to all library staff

Independent sessions & short series
Research Support Ambassadors

Runs once a year

Aim = offer research support in every Cambridge library
Research Support Ambassadors

Covers the basics of scholarly communication

Open to a small group each year

Scholarly communication in context, transferrable skills, group project work
Approaches to training

- Face to face lecture/seminar sessions
- Interactive workshops
- Town hall discussions
- Communities of practice
- Online training
- Mentoring support
- Getting involved in research
- Interactive workshops

Approaches to training
Scholarly Communication challenges

Confusion about terminology

Lack of understanding about the role of the librarian

Not part of my job description!
General training challenges

- Organisational culture
- Management response
- Other training offerings
- Lack of time
- Resistance to change
- Lack of budget
What about the money?

Look at the existing expertise in your institution

Don’t underestimate the power of small bribes

Remember that training doesn’t have to be formal

If all else fails – do it yourself!
Define scholarly communication in your context

Make it relevant to the audience

Consider your language

Use a broad definition of research
Run practical sessions

Make it a fun experience

Use a variety of training methods

Develop networks and use them

Be honest about things that don’t work
What next?
Questions?
Training doesn’t have to be formal to be successful

Make the most of the people in your network

Be open and honest, especially about things that don’t work
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