The Embedded Librarian as Graduate Coach

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The Embedded Librarian as Graduate Coach
Dr. Pam Dennis, Reference & Instruction Librarian
Gardner-Webb University, Boiling Springs, NC

Benefits of Embedded Librarians
Recognizing that reference desk questions are dwindling partially due to the increase in online classes, this poster was created to support the use of embedded librarianship and to demonstrate ways to approach and interact with teaching faculty and maintain relationships with graduate students throughout their academic careers.

Tools of the Embedded Librarian
One-on-one sessions
Library instruction or classroom micro sessions
Links and helpful videos
Ask-a-Librarian Discussion Board
Social media, including Facebook & Twitter
Online communication, including Skype, Zoom, & Google Hangout

“Overall, I think this was one of the most effective assignments I have had in the program—THANK YOU for having us meet the librarian!”

Types of Embedded Librarians
Embedded Librarians
Some regularly attend class as participants.
Some act as teaching assistants and may even
grade some assignments.

Some create course content, including
instructional documents and videos.
Some respond to Ask-a-Librarian discussion boards.

Some provide introductory sessions for research
assignments.
Some meet with students on a one-on-one basis,
in person or online.

STRESSES
1. Language Barriers
   May be from a country outside the
   United States and be dealing with
   language/cultural barriers.

2. Technology Issues
   May have been out of school a number of
   years and lack current technology skills.

3. Limited Time
   May be working a full-time job in
   addition to going to school.

4. Family Issues
   May have heavy family obligations,
   including caring for children and/or aging
   parents.

Difficulties for Graduate Students
“Overall, I think this was one of the most effective assignments I have had in the program—THANK YOU for having us meet the librarian!”

“Meeting with the librarian was very beneficial. I do wish we could’ve had the opportunity in the first semester of the program... Having this face-to-face time with the librarian means I am now more likely to reach out to the librarian services when I need them.”

Working with Teaching Faculty

“Meeting with the librarian was very beneficial. I do wish we could’ve had the opportunity in the first semester of the program... Having this face-to-face time with the librarian means I am now more likely to reach out to the librarian services when I need them.”

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