The Librarian as Researcher

Jane Secker and Emma Coonan

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Introductions....

Jane
- PhD in history / information science
- Interests: E-learning, copyright, information / digital literacy / social media

Emma
- Far too long as a student
- Interests: learner agency, academic development, literary theory / philosophy, uncertainty, liminality
A New Curriculum for Information Literacy (ANCIL)

- Arcadia Research Fellowships May-July 2011

- Understand the needs of undergraduates entering HE over the coming 5 years

- Map the current landscape of information literacy

- Develop a practical curriculum and supporting resources
Other research

- DELILA & CoPILOT: OERs & IL
- LASSIE: libraries and social media
- MIDESS, DELIVER...
- Access to Core Course Materials (UCL)
- NewsAgent (eLib)
- End-user interface testing
- Cambridge 23 Things
- Integrated IL for DL students
- Peer Training and Support scheme
- Open Access and Creative Commons
Today’s session

- **Why** do research as a practitioner?
- **What** is your research environment – and what might stand in your way?
- **How** might you get started?

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Discuss ...

- Why do research as a practitioner?
- Why might it be useful?
Why we do research

- Inevitability in certain roles - project work
- Improves credibility in own institution
- Personal curiosity, desire to express and engage, striving for improvements
- Enjoyment: new people and places
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Discuss …

- What do you think the challenges of carrying out research as a practitioner might be?

- What or who might get in your way?

- What would your ideal research environment be like?
Some challenges we have found.....

- Finding time and space - the day job gets in the way of research and writing!
- Not a recognised part of librarian’s remit
- Lack of support from senior management and/or colleagues
- No budget
- But you need to focus on how you are going to make it happen in the environment you have!
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Image: Kevin Dooley, flickr.com CC BY-NC 2.0
1. Find your thinking space
2. Modify your attitude to time

Image (l) © Jane Secker
3. Build a partnership
4. Look out for funding opportunities
5. Find your niche (love your research)
6. Develop your online identity
7. Present your ideas early and let them grow
8. The final step: academic publication
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Tomorrow’s research project ...

- **What** is your research? What question does it answer (or pose)?

- **Why** are you doing it? (= context, impact)

- **How** are you doing it? (= method)
What opportunities are there for you to do more research in your day job?

- What is holding you back?

- What are you going to do after today?
Thanks! Questions?

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http://newcurriculum.wordpress.com