
LIBRARIAN TRANSFORMATION: TEACHING DISCIPLINARY COURSES

AMY S. VAN EPPS, PURDUE UNIVERSITY

MARCH 9, 2017



NEW ROLES FOR LIBRARIANS

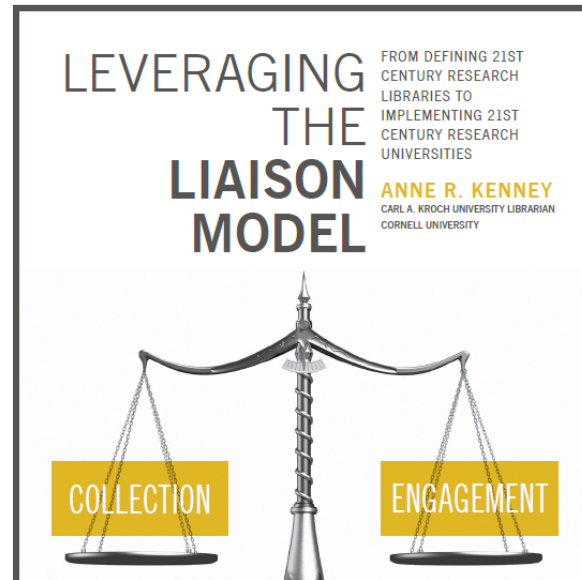
New Roles for New Times:

Transforming Liaison Roles in Research Libraries

August 2013

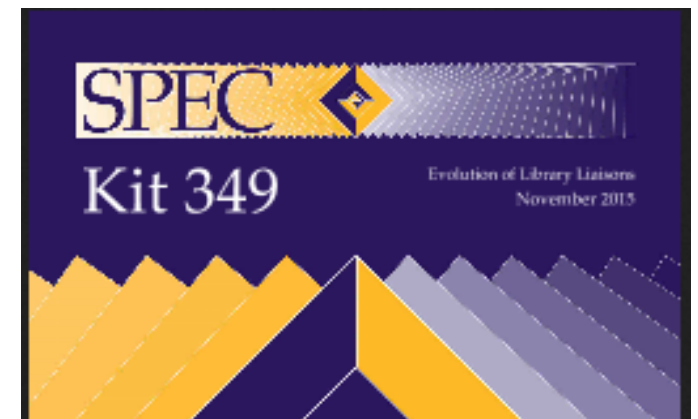
Janice M. Jaguszewski
Karen Williams

ACRL New Roles for New Times:
Transforming Liaison Roles in
Research Libraries (2012)



Leveraging to Liaison Model (2014)

ARL SPEC Kit 349:
Evolution of Library Liaisons (2015)



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