

Librarians supporting the research lifecycle – Swansea

Penny Dowdney, doctoral school manager and Vitae representative gave her perspective on supporting researchers. She thought researchers should be seen as being on a continuum from Ph.D. to Professor and that some of the material relevant to Ph.D. students is also relevant to early career researchers. Doctoral supervisor training is now mandatory so newer supervisors can be trained in what is available for students though it is hard to get through to more established staff who may not realise regulations etc. have changed. One nice tip Penny had was to invite senior staff to be on a panel of experts in a session – they will learn while they are there. Student induction is compulsory at Bangor but there is recording in Blackboard for those who slip the net. Webinars had proved popular with researchers at Bangor as they can train without leaving the office.

It was interesting to hear about Welsh Crucible and KESS2 initiatives for researchers. Many attendees had not explored Vitae material and their database of expertise may be useful. Bangor map their training to the Vitae Researcher Development Framework.

Resources

<http://www.vitae.ac.uk>

<http://www.ukcge.ac.uk> UK Council of Graduate Education

<http://www.eua.be>. European Universities Association

Dr Megan Crawford, psychology

Megan researches sleep disorders. She has a fairly typical pattern of mainly relying on online journals so doesn't visit the library building much. She attended one of our open access briefings early on so had made a personal connection with Sam Oakley who she turned to when she needed open access help. Megan suggested that line managers should encourage their staff to meet library staff early on. Her other suggestions for spreading library messages were via departmental meetings..

Dr Kath Maude English literature

Kath is a medievalist working on texts up to 1250. She tends to do a lot of her research at home with a pile of books. She told us about the problems of finding primary texts for her subjects. She often has to visit other libraries to get the editions she wants. International Medieval Bibliography is her main database and she collects references in Zotero because it moves easily between different universities. She finds research in her area can be isolating and it can be hard to motivate oneself to get down to writing when there is teaching and other things to do. She wondered if libraries could have a role in spurring people on with this. She uses twitter to keep in touch with others in her area and follows conferences she can't get to.

She reads the Swansea end of day message about events and does look at email, though she said not all colleagues do. She pays most attention to specific mailing lists, perhaps within the department though said that people recommending things to her in person helps to encourage her to attend.

Activity

We looked at various images of the research lifecycle and people tried to map library services into that encouraged discussion.

Ideas for marketing to researchers

Our take aways

Teams must reach into departmental meetings (to give info)

Infiltrate departmental meetings!

Useful to think about ways to reach out to academics

Value of going to departmental meetings

Look at Vitae database of expertise - hadn't noticed that before

Webinars / online tutorials / lecture capture

The idea of researchers being on a continuum - not going to be in the same role forever

Key to teaching / communication is personal communications

Panel of expertise to engage senior members of staff

Will look up resources from vitae / ukcge / EUA. Thanks

Look at Vitae online resource bank