Off a Camel's Back

Library services reaching target populations

Sara Kuhn, Academic Librarian, Monash University
About me...

Dancer, Performer, Reader, Writer, Dreamer, Flyer, Traveler.... Academic Librarian
BFA in Modern Dance
(with a minor in Creative Writing)
Waitress...

In the Sky!
Public Library Career

2001: Volunteer library docent at SLCPL
2003: Shelving Staff at 2 local library systems
2004: Promoted to Library Circulation Staff at SLCPL
2005: Promoted to "Associate Librarian" at the Welcome Desk near the Browsing Library and Coffee Shop
DITCHED MY "YANK" STATUS TO BECOME A "CANUCK"
2006-2008: Obtained MLIS at UBC, Vancouver
  • 2 jobs in 2 library systems on reference desks
  • Graduate Technical Assistant at SLAIS
2009: Librarian at Nelson Public Library, BC
2010-2012: Promoted to Circulation & Reference Services Supervisor
2012: Quit my jobs, traveled between Malaysia and South India for 2 years studying a traditional method of South Indian yoga, healing and science called Siddha Vaidya
Academic Librarian
Monash University Malaysia
Liaison to:
School of Arts and Social Sciences
School of Science (interim)
What is a library?

Library at Admont Abbey, Austria

Retrieved 27, July, 2015, from: http://www.slate.com/blogs/behold/2014/12/05/precious_libraries_from_around_the_world_in_the_book_reflections_libraries.html
New York Public Library, Metro, May 29, 2013

The Children’s Library at the Beverly Hills Public Library

Brownsville Public Library System's Central Library, Texas, new 6,800 square foot Public Computing Center + dedicated Teen Computing Lab

The Laundromat Café in Reykjavik, a library inside an eatery inside a laundromat!

Copy Center at David Glenn Hunt Memorial Library, Glaveston College

Retrieved 27, July from: http://www.gc.edu/gc/Library.asp
The Changing Nature of Libraries/Services

One Stop Shop

- is it relevant?
- is it easy?
- is it social?

Adaptable, diverse services and staff skills

The Changing Role of the Librarian...

- Incorporation of new technologies a must!
- is it engaging?
- Bring THEM to US or GO to THEM

informality = approachability

How heavy is YOUR footprint?
iNFORM

eNGAGE

FOUNDation

! 😄❤️?

♀ ♂❓
Mongolian Children's Library in the Gobi Desert

Bondi Beach, Australia, "Pop up" Library

Alternative Libraries, everywhere

Examples of 'Micro libraries''

Image Source: www.oddee.com

Maybe we don't have a bookmobile, but....

We can still bring collections and services to our target populations.

1. Online
2. Physically
3. Ideologically

Is the library facilitating or obstructing healthy behaviours and methods of communication, information-gathering?
The Nelson Public Library

Horse of Knowledge

Teen Centre

Photo by Anne DeGrace, 2015
How do we reach and engage our target?
Trying new things...
Incorporating tech / online teaching tools...

The Bomoh vs. The Librarian

Kahoot!

The Human Library: Check out a person instead of a book

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Originating in Copenhagen over ten years ago, The Human Library is an ongoing project designed to promote dialogue, reduce prejudices and encourage understanding. The very simple but effective program only requires a space for

Image 1: http://humanlibrary.org/
Image 2/3: http://www.yongestreetmedia.ca/features/humanbooks1208.aspx
"My message, especially to young people is to have courage to think differently, courage to invent, to travel the unexplored path, courage to discover the impossible and to conquer the problems and succeed. These are great qualities that they must work towards. This is my message to the young people."

Key Conclusions, Traits and Behaviours

- LEAD by example
- observation
- BE a LIFELONG LEARNER
- change
- humour
- Step OUTSIDE of your comfort zone
- humility
- have fun!
- TRY NEW THINGS > EXPERIMENT > DISCOVER
- Invite feedback
- Be UNAFRAID to NOT KNOW
- adaptability
- enjoy-lah
- Make YOUR footprint count!

Discussion, thoughts, ideas, questions...