Growing a Liaison Program

Presentation to
SELA/SCLA Joint Conference
November 14, 2013

Camilla Baker, MLn
Autumn Johnson, MLIS
Melissa Johnson, MLIS
Augusta State and Georgia Health Sciences (MCG) Universities announce plan to consolidate
Consolidation Moves Forward

**JANUARY 12, 2012**
University System of Georgia (USG) Board of Regents approve merger of Augusta State and Georgia Health Sciences University

**Summer-Fall 2012**
Library Work Team submit regular updates to University Consolidation Working Group. Updates are made available to public

**December 11, 2012**
SACS approves consolidation

**Fall 2013**
Inaugural class of GRU enrolled

**January 8, 2013**
Consolidation takes effect after approval from USG Board of Regents
Two Cultures

One University

Health Sciences

Humanities, Social Sciences, Education, Business, Natural & Physical Sciences
Consolidation of Libraries

Reese Library
Undergraduates
liberal-arts
Teaching-focused

Greenblatt Library
Graduates and Clinicians
health and science
Research-focused

University Libraries
Consolidation of Library Service

Reese Library
Point of need

Greenblatt Library
1998: Liaison Program Established
2012: Embedded Program Launched
Reese Library
Sub-Committee Formed

- **Information Literacy Librarian**
  - Faculty Librarian
  - Research and Education

- **User Engagement Librarian**
  - Faculty Librarian
  - Research and Education

- **Electronic Resources and Serials Librarian**
  - Faculty Librarian
  - Content Management
Reese Library Sub-Committee Formed

“improve communication and collaboration between the Library and its constituencies across the Summerville Campus of Georgia Regents University”
Issue: How do we do a better job of connecting and communicating?

Choices: Do we use an existing model, or develop something that has buy-in from the library faculty?
Embedded or Liaison: Definitions

Embedded in a class
- One or more professors
- One or more sections

Embedded in a LMS
- One or more courses
- By discipline or department

Embedded in a department or discipline
- Work role, rather than add-on service
Liaisons

Historically: Collections (and services)

Realistic contemporary: Services (and collections)
Liaison Role or Embedded Role?

Functional Areas of Librarianship
- Education
- Collection

Outside the library
- Office hours
- Grand Rounds
Similarities

• Better communication with faculty in the disciplines
• More opportunities for collaboration
• Better collections
Sustainability

New program

Reaching out to populations you may not have reached before....

....when no one is sitting around with no work to do.
Existing faculty/staff

What you were hired to do

New duties
Funding
Workload

1) The biggest investment is the time of the librarians.

2) Workload balance among staff must be addressed.

3) Watch out for loss of staff cohesion.

(Shumaker, 2009)
Developing the Liaison Program

Prospectus
- Research
- Development

Tool Kit
- Librarians
- Faculty

Training
- New Responsibilities
- Best Practices

Implementation
- Fall 2013
- Adaptation
Prospectus

- Research
- Development


Research
Development

• Set Goals
  – What we wanted to accomplish
  – How we wanted to accomplish it

• Consider new scope of university
  – How could librarians facilitate new agenda
  – How to benefit faculty, students, and staff
Prospectus

• Reese Library Liaison Program is designed to improve communication and collaboration between the Library and its constituencies across the Summerville Campus of Georgia Regents University.

• The goal of the Liaison Program is to support the mission, vision, and values of the University Libraries.
Objectives

1. Foster collegiality through consistent communication.
2. Provide leadership in collection development.
3. Promote excellence in reference and education services.
4. Assess library programs to ensure support of curricular and research needs of the University.
Tool Kit

- Librarians
- Faculty
Librarian Tool Kit

- Prospectus
- Library Directory
- Links to InfoCentral – class schedules and descriptions
- Departmental directory
- Library fact sheets – book and serial budgets, subscriptions
- Library policies
- Information about Institutional Repository
- List of helpful tips – contact times, etc.
Faculty Tool Kit

- Faculty Services Handout
- Student Guide to Library
- Map of library
- ILIT 1500 Hand Out
- Social Media Hand Out
- Libguide Hand Out
- Information about Institutional Repository
- Business Cards
Training

• New Responsibilities
• Best Practices
Training Sessions

• Four sessions to promote Liaison Program to librarians
  – Reviewed toolkit and resources available
  – Training in GOBI – how to order books
  – Changes brought about by consolidation
  – Best times to contact departments or not to contact departments
Implementation

• Fall 2013
• Adaptation
Fall 2013

• Implementation scheduled for Fall 2013
  – Contacted departments
  – Provided information to faculty
  – Made connections
Adaptation

• Librarians moving
• Library role reassessment
• Reassigning liaison areas
Our Local Roots


References Continued


