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Libraries and Learning Innovation

Becoming essential to Information Literacy, or:
“What does embedded even mean?”

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Leeds Beckett University

- ~20th largest university in the UK, with 26,000 students and 3,200 staff across two campuses
- University status 1992, origins dating back to 1832

http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/
Embedded librarianship

“Many articles suggest embedded librarianship was adopted as a term because it is a similar concept to embedded journalism. An embedded journalist is placed with a military unit to observe and report on conflicts, exercises, and missions from an insider’s vantage point… A librarian’s physical and metaphorical location is often what defines them as embedded.”

- Drewes and Hoffman, 2010
Embedded chaos

• What does embedded mean?

• Core principles:
  – Any collaborative means of fostering a reading culture
  – Alignment with organisational priorities
  – Not “nice”, not cool
  – Advocacy through actions

• What could your new connection be?
“Always practise in line with the best available evidence
To achieve this, you must
6.1 Make sure that any information or advice given is evidence-based, including information relating to using any healthcare products or services, and
- Clause 6, Code of the Nursing & Midwifery Council

- The challenge: Students need to be Information Literate autonomous learners from a formative stage in their academic careers

- Historic approach effective but time-expensive:
  - “I’ve done what you said but I still can’t find anything…”
Treatment: Constructive alignment

- Reframed as student-led process, merely enabled by Library staff:
  - “As you will be doing on your first placement…”
- Literature searching scaffolded as a 3 stage process:
  - Search, Refine, Evaluate

- Result: Less time-expensive, fewer enquiries, higher marks, +ive feedback
- More patients survive?

- More interesting is what followed…
• Invited to participate in the LWTP for Social Work
• Strong Information Literacy element:
  – Appropriate resources for professionals and students
  – Possible OA journal?
  – Access licenses
  – Keeping the hordes at bay…
Transforming how we reform lives

“Education is a crucial component of prison life that universities can support.”

Dr. Bill Davies & Dr. Helen Nichols
School of Social Sciences
Prison Learning Together

- Established by Helen Nichols & Bill Davies
- Taught at Full Sutton, a high security prison
- 20 credit Level 6 module:
  - Elements of penology
  - Philosophy of punishment
  - Prison sociology

Core idea: Leeds Beckett and HMP Full Sutton students would learn together & from one another

- And the Library was asked to help…
Information Literacy at Full Sutton

- Tuition: avoiding plagiarism, referencing & reflective writing
- Assessing student ability and providing ongoing support
- Peer support: Reflective writing as a leveller
- Challenge: How to provide resources with no internet access?

- Retro-librarianship: Printed readers!
Feedback

“…The course has made me feel like a human again. It is a great feeling to be accepted as an equal with the other students.”
(Leeds Beckett student, based at Full Sutton)

“Are you coming in like last time? Because you helped me a lot.”
(Leeds Beckett student, based at Full Sutton)

“I never realised just how beneficial preparatory readings are!”
(Leeds Beckett student, based in Leeds)
Why is my curriculum white?

• Movement dedicated to diversification of curriculum. See:
  – “Why is my curriculum white?” Facebook group

• Not without controversy…
  – “Cambridge student access Telegraph of inciting hatred in books row” (Guardian, 26 Oct 2017)
  – “No dead white men were hurt in the broadening of this curriculum”
How the Library can help...

- Subject guide
- Beckett Books Extra – for students
- Resource lists – for staff
- Critical Information Literacy
Open Access student journal

• Practical digital literacy to support the university education strategy:
  ▪ Excellent education experience – TEF, quality of teaching and assessment, new experience for students
  ▪ Research & academic enterprise – REF, fostering a research culture across all academic levels
  ▪ Community of great people – Student produced & peer reviewed
  ▪ Sustainable resources – Free, contributing to wider resources

• Also facilitated discussion of: Open Access, research, cost & quality of information, ethics, copyright
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Leeds Library & Information Services Partnership Group

- Umbrella group for ‘Health’ information services in Leeds
- Led by NHS colleagues – community healthcare, teaching hospitals, etc. – but universities also invited
- Significant overlap in customer base
- Regular liaison meetings
- Occasional cross-training
- Successful bid for £4,100 shared funding for new stock
Closing provocations

- Principles of embedded librarianship:
  1. What aligns with customer priorities? (IL!)
  2. Advocacy through actions
  3. ... And move on...

- Possible reflections:
  - Why weren’t you doing it already?
  - Why hadn’t you been asked to do it already?

- End goal:
  1. A reading culture...
  2. ... With the Library central to the organisation
References & Links

- Computer system: https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=29917509
- Connect 4 image: https://pxhere.com/en/photo/675533
- Critical Reflections: https://oj.s.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/index.php/SOC/index
- Leeds Beckett Library, Curriculum diversity: http://libguides.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/subject_support/psychology/curriculum_diversity
- LWTP for Social Work: https://www.leedswakefieldteachingpartnership.org/
- NMC code: https://www.nmc.org.uk/standards/code/
- Universities Scotland, Race Equality Toolkit: https://www.universities-scotland.ac.uk/raceequalitytoolkit/
- Tweet: https://twitter.com/BeckettLibrary/status/925666048053055489
- Why is my curriculum white? See local Facebook groups. NUS article: https://www.nus.org.uk/en/news/why-is-my-curriculum-white/

- Additional Leeds Beckett resources and images: details available on request
Contact details

Follow-up questions, suggestions & comments are welcome:

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