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Peer-reviewed Library Teaching

Reflections, Background & Practicalities

Katherine Turner & Laurence Morris

Leeds Beckett University

How have you developed your Teaching?

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Outcomes

- Understand the benefits of Peer Observation as a useful professional development tool for you to practice in your own institution
- Gain practical tips and identify strategies for approaching the observation and dealing with surrounding issues
- Engage with basic Peer Observation and start to gain insight into your own practice

Why Peer Review Teaching?

- Changing library roles
- To develop teaching skills
- Student and colleague feedback
- Peer Observation for knowledge sharing & gaining insightful understanding

Alabi, J. & Weare, W., 2014. Peer review of teaching. **Communications in Information Literacy**, 8(2), pp. 180-191.
Bell, A. & Mladenovic, R., 2008. The benefits of peer observation of teaching for tutor development. **Higher Education**, Volume 55, pp. 735-752.
Levene, L. & Frank, P., 1993. Peer coaching; Professional growth and development for instruction librarians. **Reference Services Review**, 21(3), pp. 35-43.
Vassilakaki, E & Moniarou-Papaconstantinou, V., 2015. A systematic literature review informing library and information professionals' emerging roles. **New Library World**, 116 (1/2), pp. 37-66.
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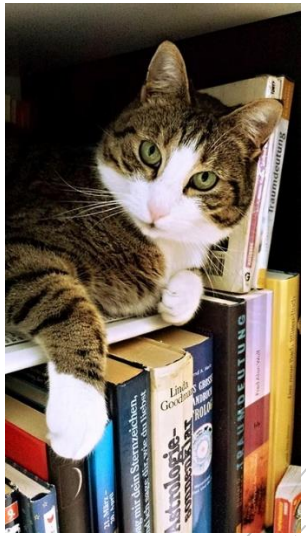
Peer Observation in Academic Libraries

- Peer Observation more widespread in traditional HE teaching
- More recent use by colleagues in support roles
- Difficult to know how much it is used
- Cases in UK, Europe & US
- Variety of Peer Observation arrangements



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Effects of Peer Observation on Librarians

- Enables focussed feedback and sharing of knowledge
- Improves teaching confidence
- Enhances collegiality
- Provides valuable opportunities for self-reflection
- Exposure to alternative techniques

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Discussion: Potential Issues/Barriers

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Our Experience

- 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

Participating in Peer Observation

- The Academic Support Team at Leeds Beckett University
- Peer-review pairings from Semester Two 2017-18
- Introducing one Peer Observation pair
- Initial impressions

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Practicalities

- Making arrangements
- Dealing with barriers
- Pre-sessional discussion
- During the session
- Feedback

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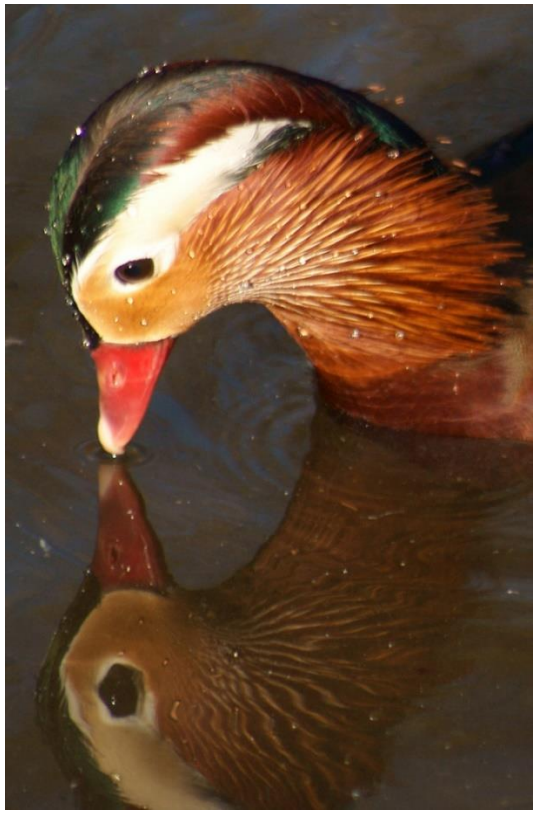
Reflections

- Opportunities for reflection
- On being observed
- Observer role
- Critical feedback
- Different styles



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Results

- Increased confidence in our practice
- Improved collegiality
- Understand benefits of Peer Observation
- What's next?
- New techniques

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Trial Run

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Comments and Questions

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References

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Thank you!

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Image https://pixabay.com/

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