“Learning and teaching should not stand on opposite banks and just watch the river flow by; instead, they should embark together on a journey down the water.”
~ Loris Malaguzzi (1920-1994)

The Life & Times of an Embedded Librarian

Library Technology Conference
March 19, 2009

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Agenda

• What is an embedded librarian?

• What I did and what my colleague, Jen, is doing.

• An embedded librarian: Why or why not?

• Tools for embedding

• Your thoughts & questions
What is an embedded librarian?
For Example...
What I did and what Jen is doing...
About UW-L and First Year Students

- UW-L is located in La Crosse, Wisconsin; population 52,000
- 2,305 first-year students came to UW-L in fall 2008
- 79% of these students were in the top 25% of their class
### What I did...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In Fall 2007</th>
<th>In Spring 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Introduced to class during 2nd week of classes as the embedded librarian for classes</td>
<td>• Introduced to class during 1st week of classes as a co-instructor and the embedded librarian for these classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 formal information literacy session</td>
<td>• 1 formal information literacy session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 research day</td>
<td>• 2 research days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Available in-person, via e-mail or chat</td>
<td>• Available in-person, via e-mail or chat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Read-rights to Class’ D2L Content</td>
<td>• Instructor rights to class’ <a href="#">D2L</a> site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Embedded librarian webpage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## What Jen did or is doing...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In Fall 2008</th>
<th>In Spring 2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Introduced to class during 1st week of classes as a co-instructor and the</td>
<td>• Introduced to class during 1st week of classes as a co-instructor and the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>embedded librarian for these classes</td>
<td>embedded librarian for these classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 formal information literacy session</td>
<td>• 1 formal information literacy session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 2 research days</td>
<td>• 4 research days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Available in-person, via e-mail or chat</td>
<td>• Reviewed preliminary bibliographies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Instructor rights to class’ D2L site</td>
<td>• Attended select speech days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Embedded librarian webpage</td>
<td>• Available in-person, via e-mail or chat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Instructor rights to class’ D2L site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Rights to e-mail class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• LibData <a href="#">Course Pages</a> with learning objects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
An embedded librarian: Why or why not?

“For every person who wants to teach there are approximately thirty people who don't want to learn--much.”

~ W. C. Sellar and R. J. Yeatman,
And Now All This (1932) introduction
Why did I want to embed?

To match what I know about human behavior and today’s students...
W.O.M. is exponential

Users: 1, 3, 7, 15, 31, 62, etc...
Days: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, etc...

Talk is cheap!

Image from VaXzine, used in accordance with artist's Creative Commons license.
HELCOPTER PARENT is a term for a person who pays extremely close attention to his or her child or children, particularly at educational institutions. They are so named because, like a helicopter, they hover closely, rarely out of reach — whether their children need them or not.

Although the term seems to have been in use as far back as 1991, it only gained wide currency when American college administrators began using it in the early 2000s as late-wave baby-boomer parents earned notoriety for practices such as calling their children each morning to wake them up for class and complaining to their professors about grades the children had received.

The rise of the cell phone is often blamed for the explosion of helicopter parenting; it has been called “the world’s longest umbilical cord.”

Text excerpted from the Wikipedia article Helicopter parent. 27 August 2007
A matter of trust...
Benefits of embedded librarianship...
What Jen thinks...
Challenges of embedded librarianship...
Toolbox for embedding
“Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence.”
~ Abigail Adams

Thoughts?

Comments?

Questions?

Thank you!