

Fostering a Research Culture in Canadian Academic Libraries

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Conference
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Outline

- **research background**
- **UAL experience**
- **UAL research needs survey**
- **audience – best practices, action plans for research culture**
- **essential elements**

University of Alberta Libraries

- **tenure & performance standards**
 - **permissive, broad scope**
- **strategic plan inclusion**
- **institutional supports**
- **recruitment criteria**
- **research competencies statement**
- **Assessment Librarian position**
- **Director of Research position**

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Nonrepresentative abstract works exhibit at the Bibliothèque Saint-Jean, February 12- 28



[Danièle Petit](#), peintre/artist

- **A la recherche d'une planète ... expression et liberté** / In search of a planet ... expression and freedom
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and drill down on the “liaison librarians” page to find a listing of publications/presentations of all UAL librarians...



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Customized Services provided by Liaison Librarians:

Liaison librarians collaborate with faculty and students to develop services and collections to meet the needs and goals of individual departments and centres, in traditional and e-learning environments, both on campus and at a distance. Such services may include:

- individualized or classroom instruction in information retrieval and research skills
- reference/research consultation, including thesis consultation
- conducting orientations for new faculty members
- departmental presentations/workshops
- facilitating the resolution of library-related concerns within each department.

The liaison librarian assesses information needs and creates specialized information services and products, such as online information resource guides, or current awareness/alerting services.

Liaison librarians welcome opportunities to work with faculty on projects such as designing effective library assignments, integrating information technology and information literacy into the curriculum, incorporating links to course-specific Library resources in online course sites, and participating in departmental meetings or committees where issues related to the library or information needs are discussed. The liaison role may also involve collaboration on faculty research teams.

If you need help finding information, using databases or other electronic resources or doing library research for a major assignment, you are welcome to [make an appointment with a librarian](#).



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2009 Survey of Research Needs of UAL Librarians

- a snapshot of librarians' research experiences, knowledge, interests, & learning needs

Key findings:

- active researchers, authors, & presenters**

2009 Survey cont'd....

- **research experience in last 2 years:**
 - **conference or workshop presentation or panel**
 - **journal article (digital or paper format)**
 - **book review**
 - **poster presentation at a conference or workshop**
 - **paper in conference proceedings**
 - **journal editor or referee**
 - **conference organizer**
 - **digital publication, e.g., wiki, database, website**
 - **book chapter**

2009 Survey cont'd....

- **“quite confident” in knowledge of research process**
- **key areas for knowledge acquisition – analyzing data/results; choosing methodology; funding sources and application; writing research proposals; ethics approvals; publishing findings; writing a journal article; peer reviewing**
- **delivery modes – workshops; one-on-one coaching**

***Audience brainstorm....
best practices, action plans for
fostering institutional research cultures***

- ***What are the essential elements of a strong research culture?***
- ***What are the barriers?***
- ***Who are the stakeholders?***
 - ***university administration; library administration; peer cohort; user communities; faculty as collaborators and resource persons; national and international associations; publishing communities***

Key Studies

CARL. 2008. “Library Education Working Group: Final Report to the CARL Board of Directors.”

-- also includes: National Research Priorities Survey; Research Competencies for CARL Librarians; Librarians as Researchers and Writers: Research Priorities for Canada's Research Libraries; Resources for librarians and LIS students interested in research

At http://www.carl-abrc.ca/about/working_groups/library_education_mandate-e.html

Fennewald, Joseph. 2008. “Research Productivity among Librarians: Factors Leading to Publications at Penn State.” *College and Research Libraries* 71 (March):104-116.

Fox, David. 2007. “Finding Time for Scholarship: A Survey of Canadian Research University Librarians.” *portal: Libraries and the Academy* 7.4 (October): 451-462.

Fox, David. 2007. “The Scholarship of Canadian Research University Librarians.” *Partnership: The Canadian Journal of Library and Information Practice and Research* 2.2:1-24.

Elements of a strong research culture

- **senior leadership commitment and support**
- **evidence-based management philosophy**
- **collective agreement – tenure, promotion, performance standards, annual report, peer review**
- **flexibility, open debate about nature of library research**
- **institutional support policies – strat plan, research agenda integration into planning and decision-making, HR, research fund, research grants, travel fund**
- **programmatic research**
- **research community – active support of peers, support team, mentorship, modeling, scholarly communication avenues**
- **lifelong learning**
- **celebration and recognition**
- **patience**
 - and.....

passion!

