

# Creative Collaborations between the Academic Library and Educational Developers: Exploring New Partnerships



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## INTRODUCTION

Teaching in an academic environment is a complex practice of planning, designing, delivery and reflection. Collaboration within practice enhances the teaching and learning experience, and creates a harmony of perspectives, skills, knowledge, and personal and professional goals. Collaboration with a Learning Team encourages a level of trust, not only in ourselves but with all members of the team, and fosters dialogue, an iterative design process, and collective reflection. The collaboration between the McMaster University Library and its Learning Support Librarian/Coordinator and the McMaster Institute for Innovation and Excellence in Teaching (MIETL) incorporates diverse perspectives within common goals.

### STUDENT

- Student Scholars:
  - Librarian provided instruction to MIETL's Student Scholars on managing and sharing citations using Zotero
- MacChangers:
  - Interdisciplinary teams of students propose creative and realistic changes to improve student learning and experience. Librarian worked with students to find, manage and critically think about resources.

### FACULTY

- Impact Fellows:
  - Librarian support for 6 Fellows, representing all faculties, who serve as advocates and mentors for sharing impact assessment best practices. Support consists of conducting literature reviews and teaching RAs how best to structure literature reviews.
- IMPACT – Forward with Integrity project:
  - working with interdisciplinary research team on scoping review and management of resources.

### DEPARTMENTAL/INSTITUTION

- Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) and the Library:
  - increasing library involvement in program reviews....becoming more than just a review of our collection.
- Library/Educational Technology joint supervision of post-doc:
  - representing and working for the library on online Information Literacy modules
  - Collaboration with departmental Digital Media Specialist
  - Pedagogy and Online Learning

## FURTHER COLLABORATIONS

- Enhanced participation/representation in “New Faculty Handbook”
- Working with Research team
- Participation in creation of Learning to Learn Modules
- Increased involvement in online course design

## REFLECTIONS

- Proximity promotes collaboration
- Collaboration needs to be more ingrained
  - at all levels within departments

