Research and Publication as an Early Career Librarian

Stuit, Martha; Thielen, Joanna

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Early Career Librarians + Research & Publication

Martha Stuit
University of Michigan Library
Considerations for research & publication

• Job responsibilities (tenure track or not)
• Experience (previous research & publication)
• Preparation (course on research methods)
• Confidence
• Time
Why research & publish?

• Develop **new knowledge**
• Position the library as a contributor to **research on campus**
• Give librarians **experience** with research & publication, which is applicable to their work with faculty
• Advance in **jobs** & profession
Our survey

☑ 255 valid responses
☑ Respondents worked in libraries for 5 years or less
☑ All have MLIS or equivalent

This talk’s focus:
Influencing factors for engaging with research & publication
Top positively influencing factors

1. Convenience of accessing scholarly resources ($n = 206, 86\%$)
2. Access to necessary technology ($n = 203, 84\%$)
3. Collaborator support and/or presence ($n = 189, 78\%$)

*positive + strongly positive combined
Top **negatively** influencing factors

1. Absence of supervisor support 
   \( (n = 117, 48\%) \)
2. Absence of mentor support 
   \( (n = 116, 48\%) \)
3. Culture at my academic library 
   \( (n = 47, 19\%) \)

*positive + strongly positive combined*
Additional factors = personal

• Self-motivation (presence or absence)
• View of librarianship (positive or negative)
• Lack of confidence
• Personal life
• Access to conferences
• Job applications
  (+ time)
  (+ culture)
Top factors for publishing more in the future

1. Dedicated time to conduct research ($n = 199$)
2. Supervisor support ($n = 128$)
3. Collaborator support ($n = 128$)
So what?
Thank you

Martha Stuit  
Deep Blue, Michigan Publishing  
University of Michigan Library  
stuitm@umich.edu

Joanna Thielen  
Research Data Librarian  
Oakland University Libraries  
jthielen@oakland.edu
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