SI 647 pt. 1: (One Version of an) Intro to Academic Librarianship

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https://dx.doi.org/10.7302/4449
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(One version of an)
Intro to Academic Librarianship

September 8, 2021
SI 647 Fall 21
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Research Impact and Information Science Librarian
Useful links:

- Link to these slides: https://bit.ly/umsi647pt1
- Link to the videos in Canvas
The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, is....

- One of ~131 “R1” universities, according to the Carnegie Classification of Institutes of Higher Education
- One of ~15 public/state 4-year universities in the state of Michigan (including U-M Dearborn and U-M Flint)
The Library at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, is....

- One of 125 U.S. and Canadian members of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL)
- One of 15 members of the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA)
In short: we’re talking about one very specific thing tonight.

Academic libraries also exist at these types of institutions! (And there is overlap among these types, of course!)

- Small liberal arts colleges
- Private universities
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities
- Community Colleges
- Law Schools
- Medical Schools
- Business Schools
- Seminaries
- And more!
“The University Library” at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor...

- **Includes:**
  - Hatcher Graduate Library
  - Shapiro Undergraduate Library
  - Art, Architecture, & Engineering Library
  - Taubman Health Sciences Library
  - Fine Arts Library
  - Music Library
  - Buhr Building (preservation, bindery prep, digitization, off-site shelving, publishing)

- **Does not include:**
  - Law Library
  - Kresge Business Administration Library
  - Clements Library
  - Bentley Historical Library
  - Ford Presidential Library
The University Library at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor...

Is comprised of the following divisions:

- Library Administration
- Dean’s Office
- Collections
- Hathi Trust
- HS-STEM
- Learning & Teaching
- Library Information Technology
- Michigan Publishing
- Operations
- Research

Employs ~450 people (mix of librarians and other staff) + ~50 students
This is me:

I’ve been with the U-M Library since 2009 (when I graduated from UMSI!!)

Work in scholarly communications, online journals, digital humanities projects, open access publishing, research impact, and more.

As of 2021: I am your librarian!

Rebecca Welzenbach | rwelzenb@umich.edu
Where did I come from?

Michigan Publishing, U-M Library

- Digital Publishing assistant (2009)
- Digital Publishing Coordinator (2010-2012)
- Text Creation Partnership (2010-2014)
- Director, Strategic Integration and Partnerships (2015-2017)
- Research Impact Librarian (2018-present)
- Information Science Librarian (2021)

Themes: open access, digital scholarship, usage/metrics, innovative business models/partnerships for producing & preserving scholarship, telling the story of why our scholarship matters
Where do I fit?
Typical Activities

- Reference questions & consultations over email, videoconference, in-person
- Instruction -- live, recorded, virtual or in-person
- Collection support -- purchasing some items for our collection (most others purchased on automatic approval)
- Supporting specific initiatives, such as Altmetric, ORCID
- Library committee work
- National/international service work
- Cross-unit projects--for me, usually in Publishing
Getting to your job

• Building skills and experience
• Flexibility, adaptability
• Professional organizations that fit your needs
  ○ Student chapters? Student memberships?
  ○ Support for conference participation?
  ○ Opportunities to publish?
  ○ Job resources?
  ○ Professional development resources?
  ○ Size, scope, focus

Examples:

• American Library Association
• Association of College and Research Libraries (sub-group of ALA)
• International Federation of Library Association and Institutions (IFLA)
• Library Publishing Coalition
Moving through your job

- Term vs. permanent hire
- Faculty vs. non-Faculty status
- Tenure or not?
- What does a path to promotion look like? Timeline, criteria, requirements?
  - Research & publishing?
  - Grants?
  - National service?
- Are you interested in management? Administration?
- Do you want to move around or put down roots?
- Check out: Erin White’s “What it means to stay” (2016)
That seems like a lot to think about on a Wednesday evening.
I agree.

Let’s digest and discuss.

What questions do you have for me?

What other information can I share with you?
Thank you! Please be in touch!

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Ask a Librarian!