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Sharman, Alison

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**Teachmeets: find out what they  
are and why they are gaining  
popularity with librarians**

Alison Sharman

Academic Librarian at the University  
of Huddersfield

# What is a teachmeet?

- Lots of short presentations on the theme of teaching
- Phrase coined in 2005 to describe an informal yet organised event: an “unconference”
- Participants share novel and practical teaching tips/innovative ideas/new technologies that they have tried out in the classroom
- Practitioners learn from each other

# Presentations

- Presentations are of a specified length – range from 2 minutes to 7 minutes
- Times for questions
- Loose rules – some specify no PowerPoint
- Running order often chosen at random
- Not everyone has to speak – can take part in other ways.

# So why are teachmeets popular with librarians?

- Librarians increasingly have to teach information skills
- Sharing of experience
- Good place to pick up ideas, learn new tricks and find out about new technologies
- Safe environment: gain confidence
- Don't take much organising
- They are free!

# What kind of topics?

- ‘Information Literacy for Library Staff – Blockbusters to Treasure Island’
- Online referencing quiz for Business School undergraduates
- How to engage your audience
- Feedback – why bother?
- The pedagogy of space – the final frontier!
- Induction by crossword

# Feedback

- “Teachmeet was a good way of covering a lot of ground in a shortish timeframe”
- “Really interesting presentations from other Librarians. Got me thinking about different approaches, activities I could try out”

# Feedback cont...

- “Fun meeting new people”
- “Really enjoyed it - as a person new to teaching info skills its great to pick up new tips”
- “Very informal and useful event. Came away with ideas to share with my team”



# Popularity is growing...

- Institutional, e.g. Huddersfield
- Regional events, e.g. Nowal in Manchester
- National events, e.g. BLA
- LILAC 2012
- First one held for teachers in Belfast March 2012



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/lecabri/5450448399/>

**If you want to host your own: here are some tips!**

(lib)TeachMeet  
CAMBRIDGE  
27.09.10

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/camlibtm/5591193933/>

**Set a date and promote your event**



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/camlibtm/5589546161/>

**Librarians *LOVE* networking**



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/davepattern/6225439335/in/set-72157627851184766>

**They like cake even more!**



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/59461128@N00/456554634/>

**Spread the word!**



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/ush/4280426340/>

**Make sure you have enough people  
to present**



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/rainiernavidad/2776596693/>

**Volunteers to help with the  
organisation**



# More info

- Birkwood, Katie (2011) *Cambridge Library Teachmeets*: <http://www.camlibtm.info/>
- Tumelty, N and Birkwood, K (2011) *Teachmeet: librarians learning from each other*. LILAC, 7 July.
- Walsh, Andrew (2011) *Librarians learning from librarians: Networking and learning intersect at the Huddersfield Librarian TeachMeet*. Information Today (Europe