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Roving librarian: keep taking the tablets

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Keep taking the tablets

Alison Sharman

@asharman
“There is a statistically significant correlation across a number of universities between library activity data and student attainment.”

– http://library.hud.ac.uk/lidp
E-resource usage

average number of hours spent logged into e-resources in 2010/11
(2010/11 honours degree graduates only)

- First: 51.3
- Upper Second: 36.1
- Lower Second: 24.2
- Third: 15.7

http://www.flickr.com/photos/davepattern/6928727589/in/set-72157629087302688/

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
Average number of library loans

http://www.flickr.com/photos/davepattern/6785023236/in/set-72157629087302688/

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
Visits to the Library
2007/8 & 2008/9
Many students are missing out on the resources we provide.
So, if Mohammed will not go to the mountain...

- Students Union Coffee bar
- Stand with laptops
- Engaged with the students
- Tablets required

http://www.flickr.com/photos/corvillegroup/4476474971/

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
Vision of the Roving Librarian

- Info on the **move**
- at the point of **need**
- Go out **to** the students
- Move **from** the traditional library environment
- Reach potential library “**non users**”

http://www.flickr.com/photos/librarianbyday/2744512265/in/pool-846852@N21/

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
Librarians – get out of the library!

• “if librarians and their staffs remain in libraries, they will soon be placed on the list of endangered species... Librarians should get out of the library and into classrooms as instructors and into offices and conference rooms as participants in the curriculum-building process.” (Leonard, 1994, p. 29)
The plan...

- Apply for internal funding
- Set up informal sessions
- Equip librarians with slates
- Promote sessions
- Evaluate the impact
- Publish findings

http://www.flickr.com/photos/jnicho02/2637002496/

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
What does the literature say?

Find out more at:
http://www.flickr.com/photos/carowallis1/4297460415/

http://www.mendeley.com/groups/2075353/roving-librarians

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
Tablets: choice of two

Most librarians chose the Android tablet over the iPad

iPad

Android tablet: Asus Eee Pad Transformer

http://www.flickr.com/photos/yto/4891249900/

http://www.flickr.com/photos/whichtechnology/5337338563/

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
Time to play...

- Time to play with new technology
- Use tablets
- Compare apps/tools
- Librarians better equipped to support mobile technology

http://www.flickr.com/photos/andrewpescod/272080926/

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
Need a recognisable brand

- Librarians out of context may not be recognised
- Need a logo/image that students can associate with the roving librarian
- Martini advertising slogan: information anytime, anyplace, anywhere
The Result!

Roving Librarian

Bringing information skills to you.

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
Used this logo for
- Stickers
- Adapted for School Plasma screens
- Advertising on library Facebook page
Plasma Screen Advert

Roving Librarian

Bringing information skills to you.

When & Where

Monday 5th December // 11.00 – 13.00
Street Café

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
Library Facebook page

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
Spread the word: Roving librarian is coming to YOU!

- Tweet on Hudlib
- Retweeted by other Uni tweeters
- UniLearn
- Emails to academic staff
- Emails to students

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

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
Email from Computing Lecturer

Sent: 10 November 2011 09:14
To: N455 - BSc (Hons) Computer Games Programming; N655 - BSc (Hons) Computer Games Programming FT route
Subject: FW: Roving librarian coming to Canalside West

Do you know what a library is? Did you know we have one? Do you understand the concept of a book, with actual old fashioned paper in it!? So retro!

Only kidding guys, but if you don’t use our library you are probably missing out on some pretty awesome services, check out the [email] below, and go see them if you have questions.
Roving Strategies

- Times and locations
- Regularity
- Method of roving
- Opening line
- Questionnaire
- Freebies

http://www.flickr.com/photos/mawts-1comcam/6256228473/

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
Roving, roving, roving

- All librarians have been roving
- Varying degrees of success
- Proactive approach
- Trial and error
- Mostly positive response from academics
- Relationships established
Response from students

1. How often do you physically visit the library?
   - Practically all the time
   - Regularly
   - Occasionally
   - Rarely or Never

2. Do you currently use Summon or any of the other electronic resources we buy for your studies?
   - Practically all the time
   - Regularly
   - Occasionally
   - Rarely or Never

3. Are you more likely to use the physical library or our electronic resources (including Summon) after talking to our roving librarian today? (select all that apply)
   - Yes - I’ll come into the library more often.
   - Yes - I’ll use Summon or other electronic services more often.
   - No - I already use the library too much.
   - No - Google rocks!

- Questionnaire: will encounter with roving librarian result in increased resource usage?
Effectiveness of tablets in supporting teaching on the move

- Highly portable (both)
- Flexible (both)
- Attractive to students/Conversation starter (both)
- Can do other work (both)
- Sometimes problems with network strength/Speed (both)
- Disadvantage not having a keyboard (iPad)
- Screen not as responsive as iPAd (Asus)
- Problems charging it up (Asus)
Some keys to success

- Be proactive
- Engage the students in conversation
- Know your subject
- Make it personal
- Experiment
- Timing
- Go out in pairs
- Freebies help
- Use colleagues

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals

http://www.flickr.com/photos/happylobster/3228866041/
And there’s more...

- Rove with a database trainer (they usually bring great freebies!)*
- Promote a service
- Gather feedback about the library
- Rove with students*

*Choose wisely

http://www.flickr.com/photos/liits/3507805843/

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
Student feedback

Positive
‘...clearly making the Library more accessible to students’
Freebies helped
Librarians enthusiastic and knowledgeable

To work on
‘Be a little more ‘ruthless’ and engage people when they come over to see what the freebies were’

Branding

**Suggestion:** Employ a student
Roving librarian: the future

• Work on the brand
• More call for roving in library?
• Develop the strategy
• Continue to up skill librarians in using tablets
• Training for staff

http://www.flickr.com/photos/42438552@N00/6762367425/

Inspiring tomorrow’s professionals
More sources

- **Sharmana** [http://sharmana.wordpress.com/](http://sharmana.wordpress.com/)
- **Library Impact Data Project**: Just another JISC Activity Data project blog! [http://library.hud.ac.uk/blogs/projects/lidp](http://library.hud.ac.uk/blogs/projects/lidp)