HOW IT STARTED

• Allied Health Sciences Liaison, Barbara Renner, contacted by faculty member
  • Teen son wants to be a librarian
    • Rising high school senior
    • Prior volunteer experience with school libraries and small public library
  • Teen wanted to talk to an academic librarian
    • Information on different kinds of libraries and librarians
    • Advice on choosing undergraduate area of study
    • Leaning toward school media specialist but not sure

• Liaison asked metadata librarian, Lee Richardson, to participate
AUDIENCE RESPONSE

• Raise your hand if you’ve ever been contacted by teens wanting to learn more about library career?
INFORMATION

• Gathered information for student
  • Different types of librarians
  • Considerations for an undergraduate degree
  • Library degree masters programs

• Good resources on the web but spread out across lots of sites

• Not many library career resources aimed at/designed for teens
  • Some resources outdated, visually unappealing for age group

• Created guide to bring resources together
  • Designed mostly for teens but useful for anyone
  • Focus on informative and fun
• Used LibGuides vs. website software
  • Familiarity
  • LibGuides indexed in libraries subject guides

• WE ARE NOT WEB DESIGN EXPERTS!
  • Worked within parameters of LibGuides
  • Consulted research on web design for teens
WEBSITE DESIGN FOR TEENAGERS

• Mostly used Nielson Norman Group research
  • https://www.nngroup.com/articles/usability-of-websites-for-teenagers/
  • Usability studies in the US and Australia

• Write for impatient users
  • Avoid cluttered screen full of text
  • Text in small meaningful chunks with lots of white space

• No boring content

• Include interactive features
  • Lets teens do things instead of just reading
AUDIENCE RESPONSE

• Chat Box
  Have you worked in a library with library career resources or programming for teens?
• Where?
• Tell us a little
AUDIENCE RESPONSE

• So You Want to Be A Librarian? https://guides.lib.unc.edu/wanna-be-librarian

• Email or chat:
  • Feedback
  • Additional content for guide
CAREER DAY PREP

Goal: give student a taste of variety of work in academic libraries

• Career Day Experience
  • Meetings with librarians across campus
    • Different specialties; included some managers
    • Showcased high appeal services (e.g., makerspace, digital health devices, immersive panoramic multi-display viewer, unusual special collections items)
  • Provided background info on student
  • Provided possible questions to stimulate discussion
  • Suggested librarians talk about their work and career paths
    • Left it flexible for librarians to include anything of interest
CAREER DAY AT UNC

- Student visited with
  - Six librarians (mostly 30 minute meetings)
    - Four libraries
    - Over three days
CAREER DAY AT UNC: THE LIBRARIANS

• Health Sciences Library
  • Liaison
    • Participated in seminar class
  • Information Discovery and Metadata Librarian
    • Library tour
  • Head of Health Technology and Informatics
    • Digital health device collection

• Kenan Science Library
  • Science Librarian
    • Demonstrated 3D printer and maker space
CAREER DAY AT UNC: THE LIBRARIANS
CONTINUED

• Davis Library (central library)
  • Head of Digital Research Services
    • Research Hub with Liquid Galaxy

• Wilson Library (special collections)
  • Special Collections Librarian
    • Showed interesting items in collections
If you were hosting a teen interested in library careers, what would you focus on?
FEEDBACK & REFERRALS

• Librarian feedback: Student very quiet; maybe better to have another person for more discussion
• Student didn’t have much feedback; thankful, enjoyed experience
• Student requested referrals for continued exploration
  • Local public, academic, government, corporate libraries
• Mom very pleased! Wanted son to have broader experience of libraries
FUTURE EXPLORATIONS

• Library strategic plan should inform future efforts
  • e.g., on demand and contained vs outreach and expansion

• Define project goals
  • e.g., pipeline to increase interest in medical librarianship?
  • e.g., pipeline to increase diversity and inclusion in profession?

• Assess resources (infrastructure and support)

• Assess need
  • e.g., how many people might want to explore a career in libraries?
FUTURE EXPLORATIONS, CONTINUED

• Should we seek partners? If so, whom?
  • UNC School of Library and Information Science, Triangle Research Libraries Network (TRLN), NC Area Health Education Centers (NC AHEC), other?
• Should we seek external funding sources (e.g. IMLS)?
• Evaluation (e.g. how formal, extensive)?
• Limited time – make adjustments with more time to plan
• Include more formal evaluation piece?
  • Asked student, his mom and librarians for general feedback
  • Timing: just prior to start of new academic year, hard to get participants to devote significant time to evaluation
THANK YOU!

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