

FACULTY LIAISON BEST PRACTICES & CHALLENGES
Humanities Collection Group Special Topics Meeting - February 8, 2002

Best Practices

1. Be visible and social – attend job talks, receptions, lectures and other departmental events. Ask faculty what they're currently researching; don't drink too much wine or you will not remember.
2. If possible, have yourself added to the department's email list. Depending on the department you may elect to participate in list discussions or just be a "fly on the wall". It is probably best not to abuse the privilege of being included in the list by filling their inboxes with non-essential email – send only critical library news.
3. Establish a relationship with the department secretary – anyone coming from a long line of domestics, knows that the help, who sees everything including the dirty laundry, always is more informed than the heads of household.
4. Be aware of department changes – curricular, faculty, mission statements, new grads, etc.
5. Review curriculum committee data sheet.
6. Review Schedule of classes for current course offerings – are there any new course offerings; do any of the courses have a research component where one can offer BI services?
7. One-on-one meetings with faculty/the library liaison/chair/library committee are a good chance to touch base, share updates in respective department. Meeting one on one with everyone is not possible.
8. Connect with those who are accessible, don't worry about the others; be sure there is at least one person in the department whom you can discuss library issues and will be a liaison to others in the department.
9. If not asked, offer to give perspective new hires an orientation to the resources available in their field should they come to UCSB.
10. Take new faculty to lunch (it's tax deductible) to discuss their research interests and library services; many want to know whether UCSB has the services/resources that they had become accustomed to using at their previous institution. If they don't ask, ask them what services they used at their previous institution.

11. Attend faculty retreats or annual meetings. If possible, get on the agenda to discuss library resources and services. If not, attend all or part of the meeting, depending on the agenda and what the department is comfortable with.
12. Place research guides in the department with other displayed literature
13. Monitor faculty research and professional activities in the campus media and professional literature (major journals in the field). Vince Leo in Serials will route select journals to you upon request.

Challenges

1. Faculty who are set in their ways – focus on junior faculty who tend to use the library more and are researching more progressive or trendy issues in the field.
2. Departments that aren't growing, no new faculty, programs and minimal number of majors and are primarily serving GE students – establishing a relationship is still crucial, for once change does occur the librarian must be prepared to react; also be aware of faculty outside the department who are researching and teaching in that discipline. There is much interdisciplinary research and teaching being conducted, and in some cases the department structures don't match primary fields of research. For instance, Charles Bazerman, a preeminent composition and rhetoric scholar, has a %100 appointment in the Education Department, rather than the Writing Program or English Department. Also, while the Sociology department was not able to conduct a successful search for a queer theorist, the women's Studies Department was.
3. Departments who want to create libraries in the department – usually resources duplicate those in the campus library; if library doesn't own see if they'd be willing to donate the material to the library for wider access, control, and preservation.