

Embedded Librarianship

In Colleges and Universities

Traditionally, librarians have been confined to library buildings. Embedded librarianship is a current trend where librarians and information professionals take their services out of the library building and embed themselves into academic departments, which in turn facilitates collaboration with faculty. Embedded librarians can teach more faculty and students how to use library collections and services.

Technology facilitates embedded librarianship. For example, Duke University libraries have added a chat reference module in Duke's course management system. For many classes, students are required to use this software to complete and submit assignments, check grades, etc. This library chat service allows librarians to answer reference questions and offer information literacy instruction. This is one example where embedded librarians can use existing technologies to reach out to students who might not frequently visit the library.

Librarians can:

- Become liaisons between academic departments and the library
- Sit in during classes and faculty meetings
- Set up help desks in campus buildings (near classrooms, labs, etc.)
- Offer Internet chat reference services and use other technologies to develop new strategies.



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Further Reading:

- Embedded Librarian Blog:
embeddedlibrarian.wordpress.com
- Kesselman, Martin A., and Sarah B. Watstein. "Creating Opportunities: Embedded Librarians." *Journal of Library Administration* 49.4 (2009): 383-400.
- Daly, Emily. "Embedding Library Resources into Learning Management Systems: A Way to Reach Duke Undergrads at Their Points of Need." *College and Research Libraries News* 71.4 (2010): 208-12.
- Hall, Russell A. "The 'Embedded' Librarian in a Freshman Speech Class: Information Literacy Instruction in Action." *College and Research Libraries News* 69.1 (2008): 28-30.