Traversing the Invisible Fence between Research and Practice in LIS

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My Talk

- Two examples of researcher-librarian collaboration
- Methods of engaging librarians in research
- Challenges in researcher-librarian collaboration
- Benefit to LIS research
- Benefit to LIS practice
- Q & A
Case 1: Sci-Dentity

- Thinking about the relevance of science in their everyday lives
- Writing science-infused stories in various forms based on STEM content they read/watch/play
- Developing literacy practices as they interact with STEM content
- Imagining themselves as scientists and engineers

http://sciddentity.umd.edu/
Sci-Dentity

Librarians as co-designers of STEM identity development program

- Primary methodology: Design-based research (DBR)
- Methods to engage librarians: Cooperative inquiry methods (blue sky brainstorming)

Sci-Dentity

Librarians as innovators of cyberlearning

- Methods to engage librarians: Cooperative inquiry methods (sticky noting)

Case 2: HackHealth

- Conducting scientific/health inquiry
- Acting as health information intermediaries for their families
- Taking action based on what they learn/ know (health literacy)
- Imagining themselves as health professionals/experts

http://hackhealth.umd.edu/
Methods to engage librarians: Cooperative inquiry methods (persona exercises)

http://dx.doi.org/10.1108/JD-03-2014-0049
• Methods to engage librarians: Note-card sequencing

Challenges in Researcher-Librarian Collaboration

- Finding researchers and librarians that can work together towards a shared goal
- Understanding that the librarian is part of the research team
- Time investment
Benefits to LIS Research

• Scholarly contributions that are informed by practice fuel more research problems
• Data is collected even if the researcher is not at the library
• Research impact beyond impact factors and h-index (making a difference in the community)
• Funders look for projects that demonstrate STRONG collaborative relationships between researchers and librarians
Benefits to LIS Practice

• Immediate impact to the community served
• Become “research conscious”
• Co-authored publications and presentations at research and practitioner venues
• Dissemination through communities-of-practice and practitioner networks
Thank You

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- Sci-Dentity team
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- Prince George’s County Public Schools
Questions? Comments.

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