Exploring New Competencies for Subject Librarians
What Are They?
Do We All Need Them?
And How Do We Acquire Them?

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How did I come to be thinking about this?

- Ten years of leading a reference department
- Lots of turnover (10 searches in 10 years)
- Decreasing questions
- Sabbatical research
UofL Context

- FTE=18,000
- Subject librarians=7 in main library
- University transformation
- Size matters
Sabbatical readings


• Auckland, M. (2012). Re-skilling for Research: An investigation into the role and skills of subject and liaison librarians required to effectively support the evolving information needs of researchers. RLUK: Research Libraries UK.


Closer to home...

- Increased instructional involvement
- Collection development analysis
Farther afield....

- Data management
- Copyright/scholarly communications
- Digital Scholarship
- Learning Analytics
- OERs/alternative textbooks
- Faculty productivity metrics
- Makerspaces
Subject responsibilities

• Adding direction or complexity...or both?
Humanities

• Images & image problems
• Research on a primary text
STEM

- Data
- Product development
- Interdisciplinary
- Librarian as connector
Social sciences

- Systematic reviews
- Data management and/or curation
What other examples can you come up with from your own experiences?

• Please share them in the chat box!
Training: What Does It Look Like?

• In-house, DIY
• Professional
DIY

• Publishing Academy
• Productive Scholar
Professional

- ACRL
- ALA
- Liaison Institutes
- OCLC’s WebJunction
- Library Juice Academy
- Library Carpentry
Layers
Librarianship
Subject
Functional
$20,000 question....

• What can we let go of? Please write into the chat box something that you think librarians can let go of doing....
• How do we show our impact?
• How do we assess our work, especially when it is relationship based?
• How do librarians get the skills and confidence to offer new services that they’ve not been asked for yet or that faculty don’t even know we could potentially do?
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