UNIVERSITY-WIDE RESEARCH GRANTS FOR LIBRARIANS

COVER SHEET

NOTE: Grant proposals are confidential until funding decisions are made.

INSTRUCTIONS: The applicant(s) must submit two (2) copies of their application packet. The application packet consists of the Cover Sheet and the Proposal. Applicants send 1 (one) printed copy of their application packet, with signatures, to the Chair of the divisional research committee, who forwards the packet to the Chair of the university-wide Research and Professional Development Committee. Applicants send the second copy of their application packet as an email attachment to the Chair of the divisional research committee who forwards it on to the Chair of the university-wide Research and Professional Development Committee.

Date of Application: January 7, 2010

Title of Proposal/Project: The value of a doctoral education in academic librarianship: The perceptions of PhD librarians

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Expected Length of Project : January 2011 – December 2012

Total Funds Requested from LAUC University-Wide Research Funds: $635

Primary Applicant
 Your Name (include your signature on the paper copy):
   Jeffery Loo

 Academic Rank and Working Title:
   Associate Librarian-Temporary, Step 6
   Chemical Informatics Librarian & Liaison to the Lawrence Berkeley National
   Laboratory
 Bargaining Unit Member/Non-Member:
    Member of UC-AFT
 Campus Surface Mail Address:
   Chemistry & Chemical Engineering Library
   University of California, Berkeley
   100 Hildebrand Hall
   Berkeley CA 94720-6000
 Telephone and Email Address:
   510-768-7643
   jloo@berkeley.edu

URL for home campus directory (will be used for link on LAUC University-Wide Funded Research Grants web page):
http://ucblibrary4.berkeley.edu:8088/LibraryStaff/staff.view.logic?id=611

Co-Applicant(s)
  Name:

  Academic Rank and Working Title:

  Bargaining Unit Member/Non-Member:
  Campus Surface Mail Address:

  Telephone and Email Address:

Proposal Abstract (not to exceed 250 words):

Academic librarians who hold a PhD degree may possess unique competencies and interests (Lindquist and Gilman, 2008) that serve emerging opportunities at academic libraries for intensive research and teaching support (Schonfeld and Housewright, 2009).

This qualitative study aims to identify the value of PhD-cultivated competencies and interests in academic librarianship and to understand how academic libraries support or restrict these competencies and interests.

Participants will be academic librarians holding a PhD degree in any field plus a Master's degree in Information and Library Science. Additionally, they will be currently employed in the US or Canada. A qualitative online survey will collect open-ended written responses on their perceptions of the value of a doctoral education in academic librarianship. Follow-up interviews with select participants will be conducted in-person or via telephone. Analysis of survey responses and interview transcripts will reveal perspectives on the role of PhD-cultivated competences and interests in academic libraries.

Does the proposal require any of the following:

  Use of UC Library facilities or other site(s) requiring prior approval (Yes/No):
      No
  If yes, include signature and position of person authorized to permit use of facilities on paper copy of application:

  Release time (Yes/No):
  If yes, include signature(s) of person(s) authorized to approve release time on paper copy of application:
      No

  Use of Human Subjects (Yes/No):
      Yes
  If yes, attach appropriate university form to paper application form. The process of

obtaining IRB approval or a determination of exemption from subject protection regulations does not have to be completed prior to submitting your grant proposal. However, the grant cannot be awarded without evidence that the approval or exemption has been obtained.

This study has undergone human subjects review at Wake Forest University and received IRB approval (#IRB00015580) from the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Institutional Review Board, Wake Forest University (telephone: 336-758-5888).

List any previous grant proposals (divisional and university-wide) from this program that have been awarded to the primary applicant or co-applicants by title. Include date of completion and amount funded:

N/A

Budget Summary

Total amount requested from LAUC statewide research funds:
$635

Total amount requested from LAUC divisional research funds:

Other funding obtained or expected (amount and source):

Fiscal Year of Application (fiscal year that funding begins): 2011
New Project (Yes/No): Yes
Supplemental Funding (Yes/No): No
Salaries: N/A
Total Salaries: N/A
Supplies: $635
Total Supplies: $635
Travel: N/A
Total Travel: N/A
Other Expenses: N/A
Total Other Expenses: N/A
Total State-Wide Research Funds Requested: $635

Revised 9/2006 bhg

Research proposal

Need for Research

Academic librarians who hold a PhD degree may possess unique competencies and interests that serve emerging opportunities at academic libraries (Lindquist and Gilman, 2008). For instance, the Ithaka survey describes the increasing need for librarians to provide research and teaching support for faculty (Schonfeld and Housewright, 2009). These roles are common experiences for doctoral students, so PhD academic librarians may have an extensive background for meeting these faculty needs. Additionally, a doctorate degree may help librarians collaborate with faculty as academic peers - thereby justifying the library's entry into intensive university teaching and research roles. And as the library workforce evolves, there are opportunities for new librarian recruitment among PhD graduates seeking alternatives to the faculty path. Understanding how doctoral competencies and interests are engaged in libraries could support this recruitment. For these reasons, studying the contributions that a doctoral education brings to academic librarianship is a timely question.

Design and Methodology

Purpose of the study: This exploratory, qualitative study aims to identify the PhD-cultivated competencies and interests that are relevant to academic librarianship and how they are engaged or restricted in academic library environments.

Research questions: This study asks the question: What is the value of PhD-cultivated competencies and interests in professional academic library practice? We are interested in the perspectives of practicing academic librarians who hold both PhD and Master's of library and information science degrees because of their intimate understanding of both the doctoral education experience and the academic library setting. The study focuses on the competencies and interests cultivated during the academic, subject expertise, career, and personal development in a doctoral education.

We focus on several sub-questions:

1. What PhD-cultivated competencies and interests are relevant to the current practice of academic librarianship?
2. In what ways are these competencies and interests supported and engaged by the organizational values and practices of academic libraries? In turn, are they being restricted?
3. Are there better ways for academic libraries to leverage the PhD-cultivated competencies and interests of academic librarians with doctoral degrees?

Interventions: This study employs qualitative interviews conducted as online surveys with open-ended questions. For follow-up, there will be semi-structured interviews of representative participants. These interviews will be conducted in-person or via telephone, and they will be audio recorded with participant consent.

Participant recruitment: A maximum of 300 participants will be recruited via online messages on professional librarian listservs and via convenience and snowball sampling of known contacts. To focus this study, our sample will be practicing academic librarians in the United States and Canada who hold both a Master's degree in information or library science and a research-based PhD degree (including equivalent degrees). There is an informed consent notice that potential participants must read and acknowledge before the study can commence.

Ethical oversight: This study has undergone human subjects review at Wake Forest University and received IRB approval (#IRB00015580) from the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Institutional Review Board, Wake Forest University (telephone: 336-758-5888).

Instrument: The qualitative survey is deployed online with Qualtrics software. The survey begins with structured demographic questions followed by open-ended interview questions on participants' perceptions of their doctoral competencies and interests in academic library environments. For a copy of this survey, please review https://sites.google.com/site/phdlibrarians/protocol/survey.pdf?attredirects=0&d=1

Data analysis: Open qualitative coding of survey responses and interview transcripts will identify themes among participant perceptions and responses.

The complete protocol is available at http://sites.google.com/site/phdlibrarians/

Budget

Supplies: I am requesting $635 for the estimated license fee for the MAXQDA10+ portable educational license, http://www.maxqda.com/. This qualitative analysis software is necessary for the coding of the survey responses and the interview transcripts.

Personnel

I am the principal investigator and there no additional paid personnel.

My research collaborators are:

> Dr. Erik Mitchell
> Assistant Director, Technology Services
> Z. Smith Reynolds Library
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> Dr. Susan Rathbun-Grubb
> Assistant Professor
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Timetable for Completion

February 2011 – July 2011	Survey implementation, promotion, and data collection
August – December 2011	Data analysis of survey
January – March 2012	Conduct follow-up interviews
April – June 2012	Data analysis of interviews
July – October 2012	Further data analysis
November 2012 – onwards	Journal publications and conference presentations

References

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LAUC **Librarians Association of the**
University of California

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET INFORMATION
This Sheet Must Accompany the Grant Application

NOT APPLICABLE FOR THIS RESEARCH PROJECT

PER DIEM
Please indicate the source of the per diem rates used in the application

      a. Federal Government
      b. University
      c. Other _____
      d. Other _____

Location	Rate	Source

1.
2
3.
4.
5.

TRAVEL
Please indicate the source of the travel information used in the application

      a. Federal Government
      b. University
      c. Internet Search (list which service used)_____
      d. Travel Agency
      e. Other _____

Location	Type	Amount	Rate	Source

1
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.