

Mapping Collaborations Between Academic Business Librarians and Career Counselors: An Exploratory Study

Raymond Pun (he/him/his)
Alder Graduate School of Education

Purpose: Preparing students for career opportunities can be highly rewarding for academic librarians. One way to expand on this work is through collaborations with campus partners. Collaborations between academic libraries and career centers are increasingly popular yet the types of interactions may vary from campus to campus. The purpose of this study is to understand “how academic business libraries are collaborating with career centers to support their students in their respective institutions?”

Methods: In Spring 2017, an online survey was created to gather input from academic business librarians collaborating with career centers and identified participants in an interview with the researcher. Surveyed academic business librarians (n=32), and interviewed and led focus groups with 5 academic business librarians and 2 career counselors in-person in Fall 2017. Responses were openly coded and analyzed.

Findings and Key Themes:

- a. **Common Collaborative Activities:** common activities in collections and services can vary from school to school, including shared LibGuides, research consultation and database training sessions with students/career counselors.
- b. **Direct Collaborations:** more collaboration between groups through shared meeting spaces or occupying in same buildings can be fruitful.
- c. **Business Information Literacy:** the term is not relevant or helpful to categorize information literacy in the business research context for students and faculty.

Implications: To support business students (undergrad/grad), collaborations between two groups are much needed and desired. Communication is key, and both groups can share information and resources because they embrace similar interests and goals.

Selected References:

Stonebraker, I., Maybee, C., & Chapman, J. (2019). Undergraduate students' experiences of using information at the career fair: A phenomenographic study conducted by the libraries and career center. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 45(4), 358-367.

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