

When the Instructor Becomes the Student: How Sitting in on Classes Strengthens Libraries' Departmental Impact

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Attending classes allows librarians to:

- Make personal connections with faculty and students
- Learn about department research and curriculum priorities
- Foster partnerships between the library and department
- Gain special insight into providing instruction and reference
- Inform on desired trends in collection development
- Gather observations of student research behaviors

What are the challenges?

Sitting in on any class period means less time in the office. Depending on desire involvement you might have homework outside of class time as well. You can't sit in on every class every semester – you must be selective with your time.

Sitting in on classes can take many forms:

- Attending a class frequently but informally (auditing)
- Attending a class a few times a semester, depending on topic
- Enrolling in a degree program
- Enrolling in a single class as a non-degree seeker
- Completing assignments in order to participate in class
- Quietly observing and taking notes for oneself

Who really benefits?

- You
 - Professional development
- Your student and faculty
 - Increased contact
- Your library
 - Increased visibility across campus

New Knowledge

- Professional development = new content knowledge
- Currency with departmental curriculum, collection development needs

Personal Connections

- Faculty: New instruction, outreach opportunities
- Students: New reference interactions

Visibility for your Library

- New campus partners
- New campus advocates

Literature Review

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Day, Lance and Jaroslaw Szurek. "Beyond the MLS: Reflections on the Role of Professional and Continued Education for Academic Library Liaisons." *College & Undergraduate Libraries* 25, no. 2 (2018): 131-149.

Ferguson, Jennifer. "Additional Degree Required? Advanced Subject Knowledge and Academic Librarianship." *Libraries and the Academy* 16, no. 4 (1026): 721-736.

Girven, Wendy Jo. "Transitioning by Degrees: Becoming a Subject Librarian." Paper presented at Canadian Association of Professional and Academic Librarians Annual (CAPAL) Conference. University of Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. May 2018.

Mayer, Jennifer and Lori J. Terrill. "Academic Librarians' Attitudes about Advanced-Subject Degrees." *College & Research Libraries* 66, no. 1 (2005): 59-73.

How do I know?

Since spring 2017 I have been both Arts Librarian and PhD student in Art History. I also sat in on several different classes informally before officially joining the program.

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