



THE CHALLENGE



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If we share ideas and combine our experiences, what advancements can we fuel?

We can make a good idea great – and probably live to see it happen! There are so many possibilities that there's no way to succeed as an 'island' today.

By getting past our institutional and departmental silos, we ventured into a realm where we could (and did) share openly, without fear, expecting only mutual support and respect. Our experience led us to innovations within the team and inspired those involved tangentially to take bold steps in exciting directions that will continue to propel their growth as well as ours.

First, there are lots of materials, services, tools that librarians have and/or know about that we are blissfully ignorant of that could make our lives and those of our students much easier. Second, if we don't let the students know what materials, services and tools are available, they won't even know to ask for help. Finally, our students, if they have a positive experience with research aided by librarians, they may be more likely to continue using research and will, hopefully encourage their students and their colleagues to do the same.

If we focus on distance learning, what directions can we set?

We can move closer to self-directed goals... Our students have good ideas that can make an almost immediate difference in their worlds with our support.

Distance learning is becoming the new standard, is breaking barriers and generating innovations at a startling pace. By immersing ourselves in these new technologies, and embracing the ever-changing tools, we can set a path toward improving all of higher education, creating richer learning environments for a new generation.

There is a much higher likelihood that I will use the library, and that my students will use the library if they can access it at 2:00AM and from a distance. This increases literacy ~ both library literacy and content literacy. If we want a more literate constituents, then we must give them the tools to become literate AND those tools must be available at student need rather than when we are ready to let pearls of wisdom drop from our lips.

If we dare to be creative, what freedom can we find?

We can know that we are doing the best we can with what we have at the time. That relieves the stress of trying to be 'perfect' and removes the fear of just being our unique selves.

We find the freedom of inspired thought.

Surrounding yourself with creative folks helps you to be more creative yourself. Creativity is the freedom to produce things that are different from the 'norm' and allows you to show your thinking in a different way. It allows you to 'come out of the box' and in showing your students that, allows them the freedom to do the same in an environment in which it is safe to be different.

If we draw upon a woman's way of knowing, what difference will it make?

We can contribute in ways that men cannot simply due to our different natures. That will create new opportunities within a more balanced realm that will naturally be more rewarding for more members of our society.

It will make the difference of leading with a gentle hand, of allowing someone to grow and learn without feeling taught or that they were less than before they knew it.

This world is not a 'veil of tears' but a hopeful, delightful place. All we have to do is embrace the positive rather than the negative and quit worrying. Worrying kills creativity. Bullying kills creativity. Pushing kills creativity. Nay saying kills creativity. Joyful gathering brings together minds that are free to experience different ways of knowing and to share those ways of knowing with others who are open to other ideas, world views, and intellectual diversity.

If we collaborate, what issues can we promote?

We can promote the issues that matter to us. Just trying to solve a problem sometimes solves it! Every little action starts a chain reaction that might just end in total satisfaction.

We can promote the benefits of collaboration, of shared knowledge, of the sum being greater than the parts, of the whole learning experience, of how to apply knowledge and the ways of learning to our whole lives, instead of just to a particular subject.

Positive interdependence! We're all in this together. We can build together or tear down together ~ or do both as needed.

If we reach out, how inclusive can we be?

We can ride our dreams 'to the moon and beyond' ~ and experience the gamut of life in between. Together, I think we can find a way to reach every single soul that's close enough to touch.

If we reach out, we should reach in every direction, looking for a hand up from the leaders who preceded us, reaching out to our contemporaries to strengthen our footing, reaching back to the next generation of librarians, faculty and course developers both to help them learn from where we've been, and to feed the inspiration that will keep us going.

Inclusiveness means that we embrace each other's differences and accept differences as normal. There are a zillion good ideas in the world, why shouldn't we have access to them all? Why shouldn't everyone have access to our good ideas?

If we don't try something, how will we ever know?

We can not fight every battle that needs to be fought; but, we can choose our battles wisely enough to win more than we might expect. Finding out what doesn't work can be as important as figuring out what does work!

Exactly!

Trying and failing isn't scary. It's failing because we didn't try that's scary. 'Feel the fear and do it anyway!'