The Embedded Librarian Pilot Program Q & A

What do you mean by embedded librarian? Instructional partnership

- Embedded Librarianship is a new term for having a librarian take part in an online course.
- The term embedded librarian originates from the phrase “embedded journalists”, which defines news reporters who are attached to military units, usually in combat zones. Librarians want to be in the middle of action too - the action that takes place in the online classroom! Librarians are actually not observers like the journalists; they are fully engaged and are an essential part of the whole.
- Embedded librarianship can include team teaching a course, becoming an important part of an annual health event, integrating library resources into a course curriculum or even becoming a member of a medical research team.

Why should I agree to an embedded librarian in my BB course?

For many reasons, some of which are as follows:

- Given the rapid growth of online courses, librarians should be available equally for on campus and off-campus students.
- An embedded librarian can be an ongoing library support for online students. This is especially true for capstone projects or for courses that have a specific research-focused assignment.
- Many times students who take classes online miss out on library orientations/instruction.
- Students learn better if librarians can help them when they have a question related to their assignment. In other words, it benefits students by providing reference at the “point of need.”
- Studies show that students online ask more questions not only because they are more confused, but, more importantly, because they are less afraid of asking questions.
- Being present on Blackboard will allow the librarian to get a feel for the class level and assignments to ensure that the information provided (book, database or website) is relevant and tailored to a specific audience.
- Sometimes the response to one student’s question is beneficial to others.
- Embedding helps instructors because the librarian takes on the responsibility of answering relevant library and research questions.

So what do you want to do on my BB course?

There are many ways that librarians can collaborate with you:
Simply post the librarian’s contact information and announce to your class that the librarian is available to help with research and library related assignments.

Invite us for one virtual visit as a guest in your BB course and let us teach an online library class.

Embed us in your course for one week when students are working on their research assignments—*librarian needs to be added to the course as a Course Builder or TA*.

Give us permission to monitor the discussion board by using email notification or RSS feeds—*librarian needs to be added to the course as a Course Builder or TA*.

Let us post information proactively on the discussion board and answer research questions—*librarian needs to be added to the course as a Course Builder or TA*.

Let us add library related content to your online course, such as tip sheets on research strategies, tutorials or videos *librarian needs to be added to the course as a Course Builder or TA*.

Create a separate “Embedded Librarian or Digital Librarian” tab, or an “Ask a Librarian” Forum to answer library related questions—*librarian needs to be added to the course as a Course Builder or TA*.

And finally remind students that a librarian is available to them in your online classes.

Note (1) For further information on this pilot project, please contact the following librarians depending on your campus.

Note (2) In addition to the general help that all our librarians can provide, some of our librarians are specialized in specific disciplines.

Midtown

Marina Zilberman, 212.463.0400, ext.5221, marina.zilberman@touro.edu – specializing in Social Work
Sara Tabaei, 212.463.0400, ext. 5233, sara.tabaei@touro.edu
Chelsea DeGlopper, 212.463.0400, ext. 5397, chelsea.deglopper@touro.edu – specializing in Social Sciences and Philosophy

Midwood (Ave. J)

Edlira Agalliu, 718.252.7800, ext.217, edlira.agalliu@touro.edu – specializing in Social Work, Speech Language Pathology, and Psychology

Bay Shore

Laurel Klayman, 631.665.1600, ext.6224, laurel.klayman@touro.edu – specializing in Graduate Education
Lander College for Men
Joan Wagner, 718.820.4914, joan.wagner2@touro.edu

Graduate School of Business
Annette Carr, 212.742.8770, ext. 2449, Annette.carr@touro.edu – specializing in Business

Below is an example of how an embedded librarian participates on BB.

Hope to see you on Blackboard very soon!