



Service or partnership?

How to juggle between being solo and embedded

Tales from a corporate librarian...



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MED-EL

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Embedded and solo in D-A-CH countries

- D-A-CH (Germany, Austria, Switzerland)
- OPL – One Person Librarian
- Corporate librarians are not trained professionals in many companies
- No tradition of professional information centers in companies
- Germany: difference between librarian and „Dokumentar“(documentalist)

Embedded Librarianship

- Takes the librarian out of the context of a traditional library setting
- Embedded librarianship looks different wherever it is applied
- Nothing new for solos
- **How do I get the customer into the library vs. what does the customer need?**
- **Service provider vs. partnership?**
- Or maybe both?

Embedded Librarianship

Scenario A: You are a solo librarian and want/have to be more proactive and find new roles within your organization

Scenario B: you are appointed/hired as a embedded librarian at your organization

Be realistic

- Are traditional library services (maintaining physical library) still part of your job?
- What size is your target group?
- Where does the information professional fit into the organization?
- What is your expertise?
- What are the needs of your clients?
- Competition within your organization?

Different ways to be embedded

- Physical located within group
- Online: classroom, webinars, presentations
- Project based
- Part of meetings: face to face or online

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Solo and embedded



- Small physical library and journal circulation
- Maintenance library software, intranetpage, subscriptions, databases
- Literature search service
- Copyright
- Open Access
- Reference Management Software
- Document delivery
- Trainings
- **Fully embedded into one department, part time embedded with a few departments and for some just a service provider**

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How to balance



- You can't be involved with every department or project
- Learning new competencies is very important
- Physical library is still relevant
- long term: hire second librarian

Lessons learned so far...

- It takes time to form partnerships
- Be proactive and confident
- Be social and ready to collaborate, learn new things
- How can you help your clients? Why does the organization need an information professional?
- Share your success and show your impact!

Thank you!

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