Recalibrating our Orbit: Examining Misconceptions in Order to Improve Library Instruction

LOEX 2018

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https://goo.gl/8V9Wgq

We began the workshop with the following prompt and asked participants to write down on their worksheets some misconceptions they have heard from students, from faculty, and from other librarians. Worksheet can be found here: https://goo.gl/Ci2bKr (We covered the Reflection prompt with another post-it until the end of the session)

WHAT are MISCONCEPTIONS about LIBRARIANS’ WORK and LIBRARIES
Participants were then broken up into 9 groups (3 groups per category) and asked to brainstorm and discuss their misconceptions from the folks in each category (students, faculty, librarians). The groups wrote their responses on big post-it notes.

After 15 minutes, we asked the groups to switch to a different category, and begin to identify themes that they saw in the misconceptions. They took notes on the big post-its with a different colored marker. (see images on the following pages)

We then reconvened as a large group (over 60 participants) and had a group discussion about what we identified. The workshop leaders used the following prompts:

- Which misconceptions do you try to correct?
- Which misconceptions do you work around?
- How do you decide?
- What is the significance of the given misperception? Is it really a problem or is it just hurt feelings/annoyance/frustration?
- How do we contribute to the misconceptions?

We concluded the workshop by asking participants to reflect on and respond to the following prompt:

- What small things can you tweak in your practice to offset any of the misconceptions we discussed today?

Participants wrote one of their ideas on a blue post-it and left it on the door on the way out of the room. (see images on the following pages)

In the coming weeks we will be transcribing our notes, looking at the misconceptions and the reflection prompts, and identifying themes that emerge from this data. We thank everyone who participated for your valuable contributions to a robust conversation.

~Stephanie, Sarah, & liz