Seeking out initiatives & partnerships for digital instruction & engagement as a systems librarian

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Alternate title

Climbing out of the basement: A systems librarian's journey

B

FLOOR

B

WEST

Challenges for Systems Librarians

Challenges

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- Job description / nature of work

- Position within institutional hierarchy

- Physical separation

- Consortial obligations (for me)

Systems Librarian Strengths

Strengths

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- In-depth knowledge of library system infrastructure

- Data & coding skills
  - System Support
  - Development
  - Data Archiving & Preservation

- Familiarity with wide range of resource & system interactions

- Unique perspectives on relevant contemporary topics

Initiatives & Partnerships

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(The Sprinting Tour)

Coding Workshop

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- Opportunity to collaborate with other tech-oriented librarians

- Instructional & outreach opportunity

  - Solve librarians' coding problems

  - Increase awareness of systematic approaches to problems

  - Chance to improve own skills

Coding Workshop

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- Professional Development Offering: BASH tutorials

    - Introduction to coding, many first time coders

    - Large interest, large turnout

    - Technical failures

Emerging Technologies Discussion Group

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- Monthly discussions on new & developing tech trends

- Gives systems librarians a chance to both participate in and lead discussions

- Gives systems librarians an opportunity to present themselves as subject specialists

- Present new & emerging tech in context of library systems, services

Endangered Data Week

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- Partnership with MITH

- Event planning to encompass skills-based learning, consciousness-raising, and interdisciplinary perspectives on tech & social problem
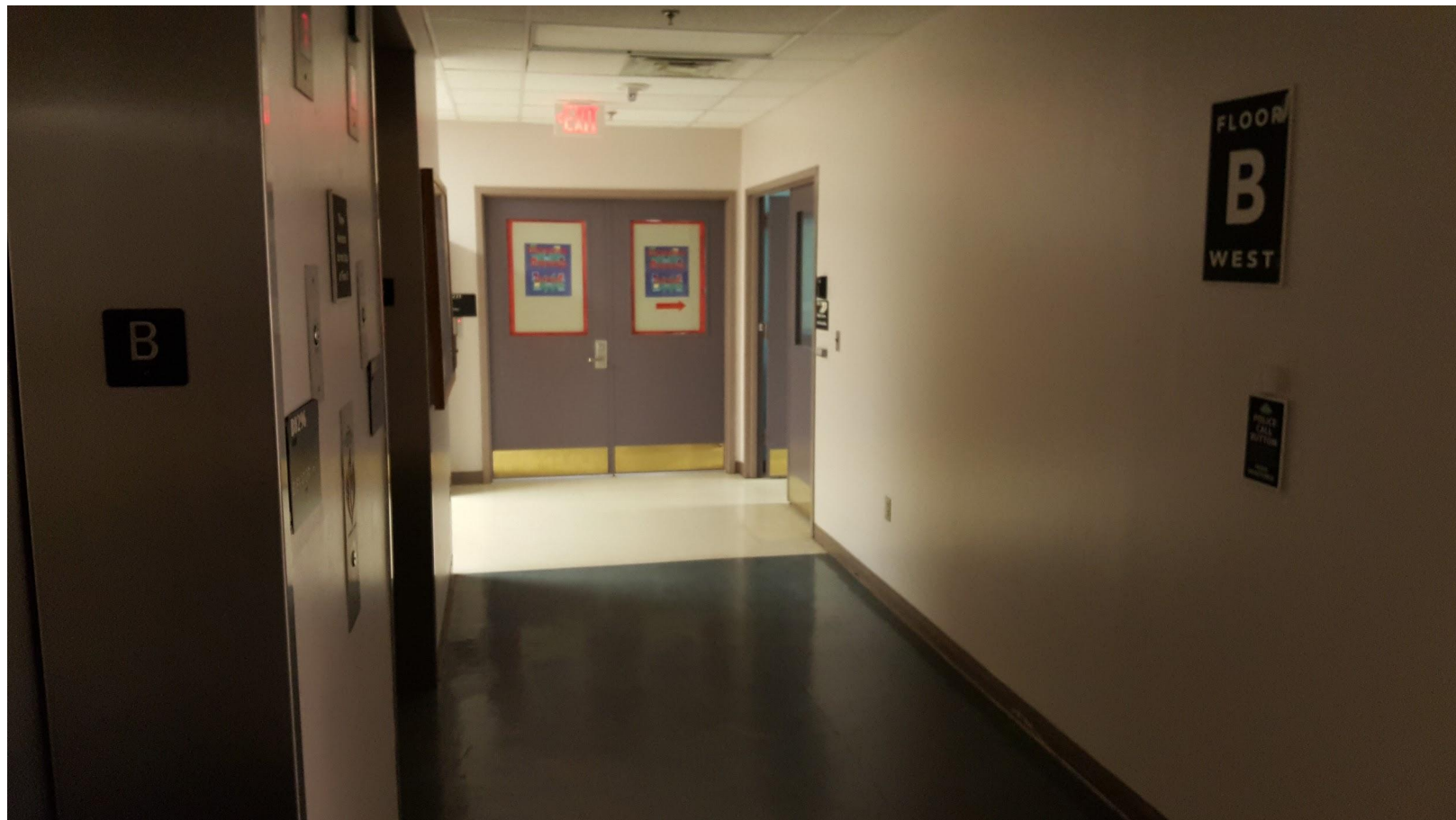

Endangered Data Week

What to do

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- Clearly communicate with supervisor re: expectations

- Initiate conversations with potential collaborators

- Get out of your space

- "Stretch your legs"

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"I FORGET THAT YOU ARE PART OF THE [SYSTEMS TEAM] BECAUSE I ALWAYS SEE YOU OUT DOING STUFF"

-Paraphrase of a generous coworker