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
Challenges for Systems Librarians
Challenges

- Job description / nature of work
- Position within institutional hierarchy
- Physical separation
- Consortial obligations (for me)
Systems Librarian Strengths
Strengths

- 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
Hello, IT, have you tried turning it off and on again?
Initiatives & Partnerships
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(The Sprinting Tour)
Coding Workshop

- 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

- Professional Development Offering: BASH tutorials
  - Introduction to coding, many first time coders
  - Large interest, large turnout
  - Technical failures
Emerging Technologies Discussion Group

- 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

- Partnership with MITH

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