Embedded Librarians

Three Models to Promote the Library and Improve Student Learning

Colgoni, Godfrey and Nicholson
McMaster University

#embedmac #acrl2011

Outline

- Poll
- What is embedded librarianship?
- Initial Vote
- Three models:
  - In a program
  - Virtually
  - In the campus teaching support centre/centre for teaching excellence
- Q & A + Your Experiences
- Final Vote

Poll

How many of you currently have embedded librarians at your institutions?

- In an academic program?
- Virtually?
- In a teaching support centre?

Embedded?

Image credit

Cybrarians?

Image credit

A corporation that is serious about its information needs may contemplate having at its disposal a network of cybrarians (i.e. librarians able to navigate in ‘cyberspace’), strategically located throughout the company.

Bauwens (1993)

Blow up the Library

Get out!

Connect information consumers with suppliers

Image credit

Embedded Librarian

Characteristics

1. physical (or virtual) co-location
2. funding outside normal library budget lines
3. managerial and supervisory reporting lines
4. participation in organizational activities of library and client group (Shumaker & Tyler, 2008)

Roles

- embedded in courses
- members of research teams
- collaborating in scholarly communication activities
- embedded in virtual worlds or virtual learning environments
- *embedded in T&L support centres*

“It’s the human side, stupid”

- traditional skills & competencies must be combined with advanced knowledge of customer domain
- application changes, but underlying skills remain essential
  (Shumaker & Tyler, 1997; Kesselman & Watstein, 2009)

Initial Vote

Which of our models do you think is most effective at building campus relationships and improving student learning?

1. Embedded into a Program
2. Embedding Virtually
3. Embedding into a T&L Support Centre

Embedding into a Program

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Model Comparison

- Office located at program HQ ✓
- Salary paid by the program ✕
- Report to program and library ✕
- Participates in organizational activities of both groups ✓
- Completely integrated into the program's activities and planning ✓

iSci

- 4 year Honours Degree Program
- Bringing sciences together - interconnectedness
- Research-focused, project based, inquiry-style groupwork
- Small (<60/yr), intensive

Location

- Facilitates communication between instructors and librarian
- Primacy of library for students
- Impromptu and scheduled student consultations with librarian

Curriculum, etc.

- iCore & iTeach
- Student Selection & Recruitment
- Project co-ordination ('Sustainable Energy')
- Guides, Resources, Links, Facebook

Science Literacy

- with Dr. Sarah Symons
- 2 hr. weekly class for Level I
- ‘thread’ that runs through all aspects
- Covers the overarching skills needed to ‘do’ science:

  scientific writing/reading, note-taking, information research and management, academic integrity, communication, etc.

Synopsis

Integrated Science, McMaster University

Synopsis : Alpha

Year I Integrated Science, McMaster University

Synopsis : Beta

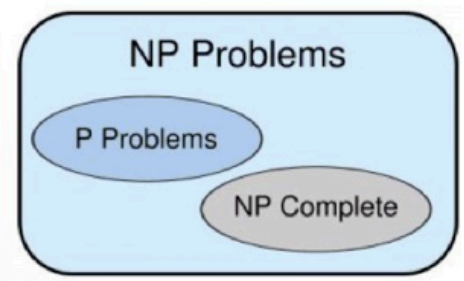
Year II Integrated Science, McMaster University

Home Rules & Guidelines

Nov 30 / Kriston Costa

The P versus NP problem

The P versus NP problem is arguably one of the most important problems in mathematics and computer science. The basis behind the problem is quite simple; it simply asks "If a solution to a problem can be verified in any reasonable amount of time can all the solutions be found for the same problem in a reasonable amount of time?" In order to completely understand the complexity of the problem P and NP must be defined. A problem that can have a solution verified efficiently can be seen as having a polynomial time solution. NP represents a set of problems which are capable of having solutions verified in polynomial time. This NP set can also be considered to be a non-deterministic problem. A non-deterministic problem means that there can be numerous outcomes for a given value. P represents a subset of NP problems meaning that all P problems can verify solutions in polynomial time. However, P is a special case of NP problems. The problems in the subset P are considered deterministic problems. A deterministic problem would mean that there is one outcome for one value.



RECENT POSTS

- The P versus NP problem
- The Alcohol Flush Reaction: It's The Science Behind Drinking
- The Synthetic Cell: History in the Making
- Your Thoughts (Are) Matter?
- Generation Y
- Is There a Common "Scientist Personality"?
- Teaching Tools
- Abiogenesis: Vesicle First Principle

How to make a poster

Integrat

Presentations: The iSci Guide to Best Practice

Preparation

- Use props as necessary (i.e. cue cards and visuals)
- **Practice, practice practice!**
- Preparation brings up the choice between memorization and speaking

ly according to personal preference.

but don't memorize a script.

that there's no overlap in content; aim for good flow,

cting for people sitting in the audience

ng

ughout, conclusion

slides, so that the presentation flows

Is it possible to plagiarize your own work?

A. True

B. False

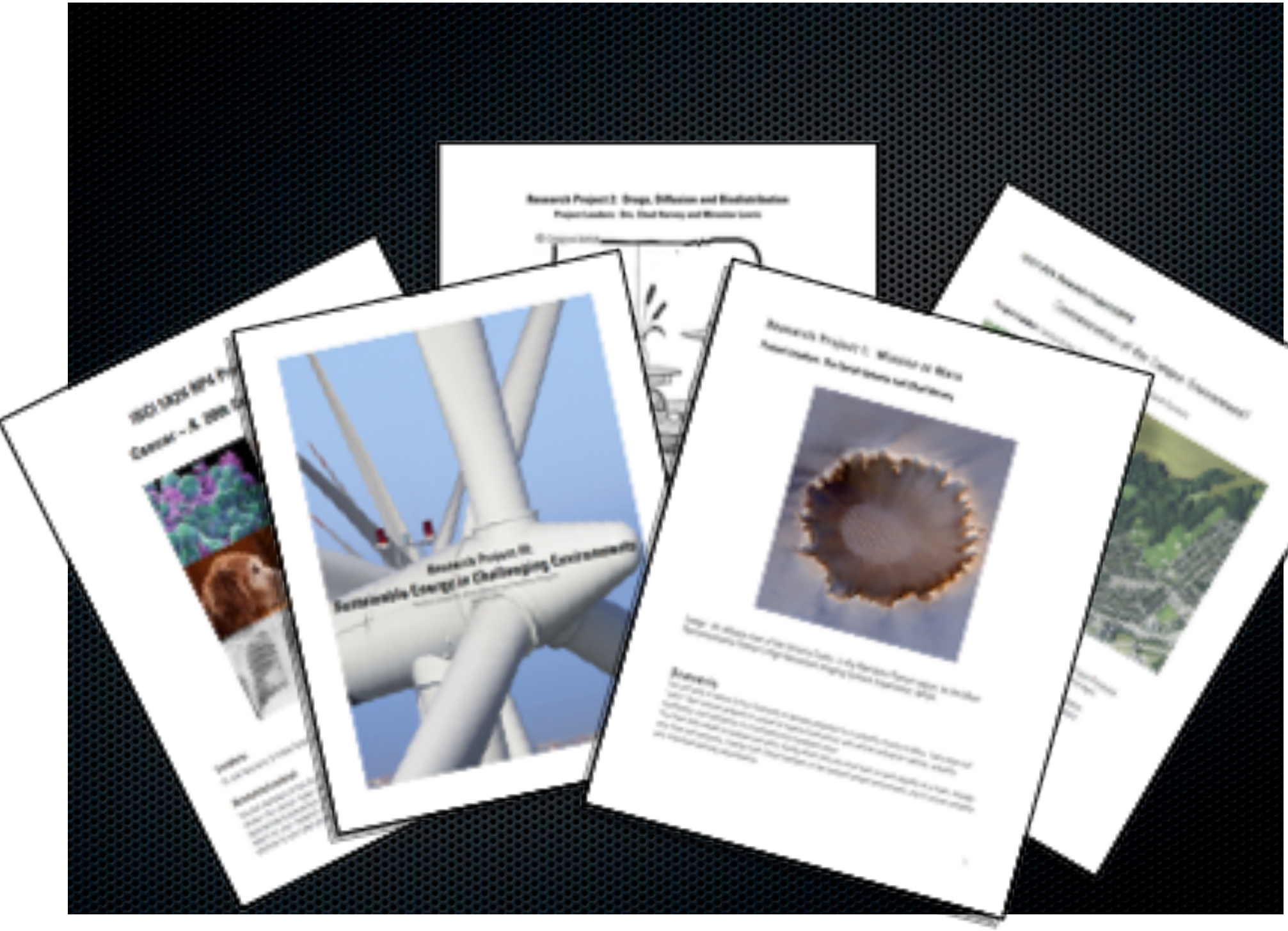
LIBRA

How and where t

Andrew Colgoni. Science Fluencies Librarian.

Searching PubMed

Adapted for iSci
Original by Jackie Stapleton (University of Waterloo)



- Adaptable to different situations
- Embedding doesn’t need to be full-time
- Effectiveness comes from deep embedding across the curriculum

Embedding Virtually

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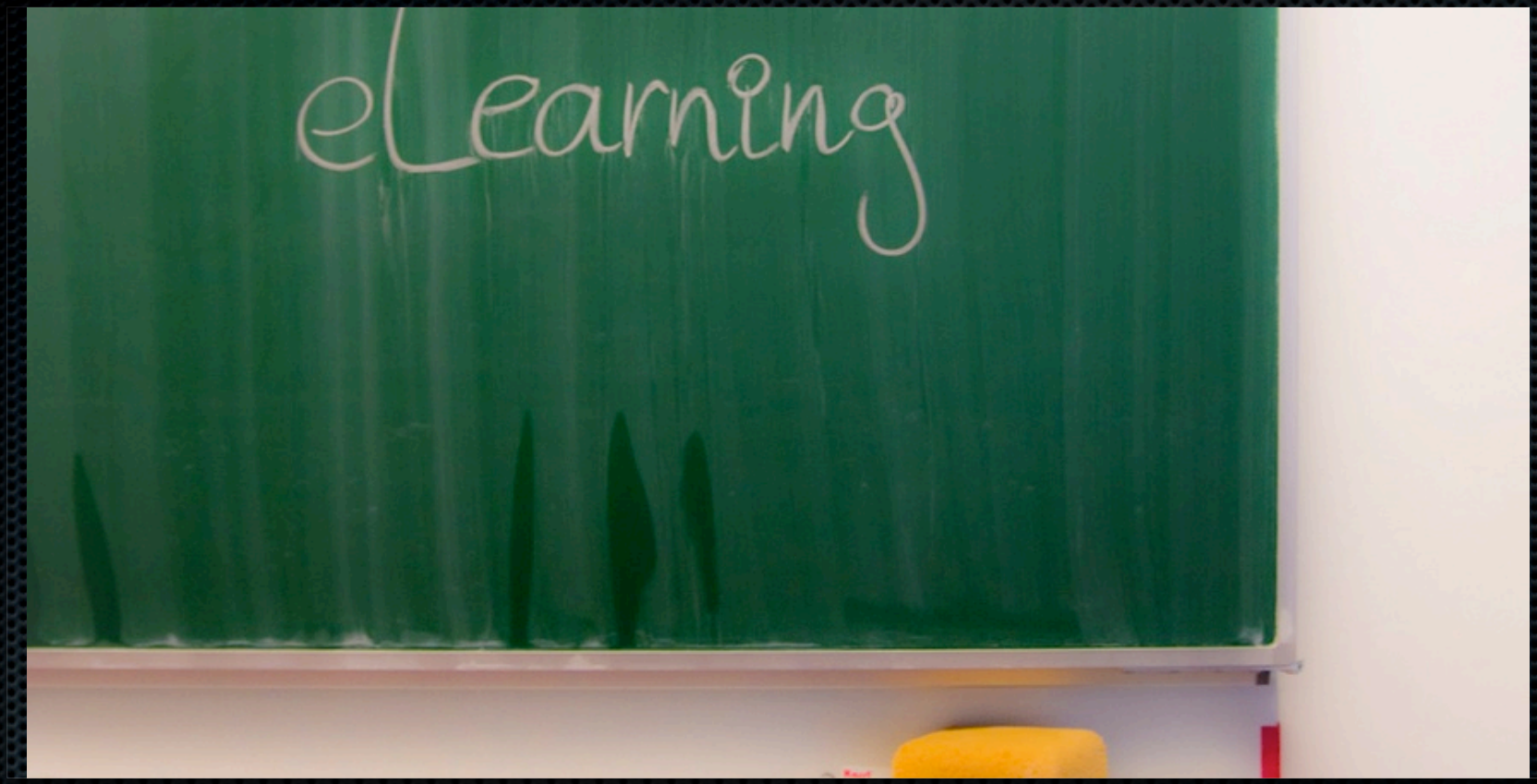
Bridging Distances

Not just for distance education

Image credit



Learning Management Systems

Image credit

LMS

- Quizzes
- Discussion forums
- Pathfinders/subject guides
- Learning Objects (video, ppt, articulate)
- Chat/IM

Image credit

Social Networks

It’s about connections, being where our users are.

Image credit

Virtual Worlds & Environments

Yes, Second Life may be a possibility

Advantages

- Be where your users already are
- No space or money issues
- Statistics gathering

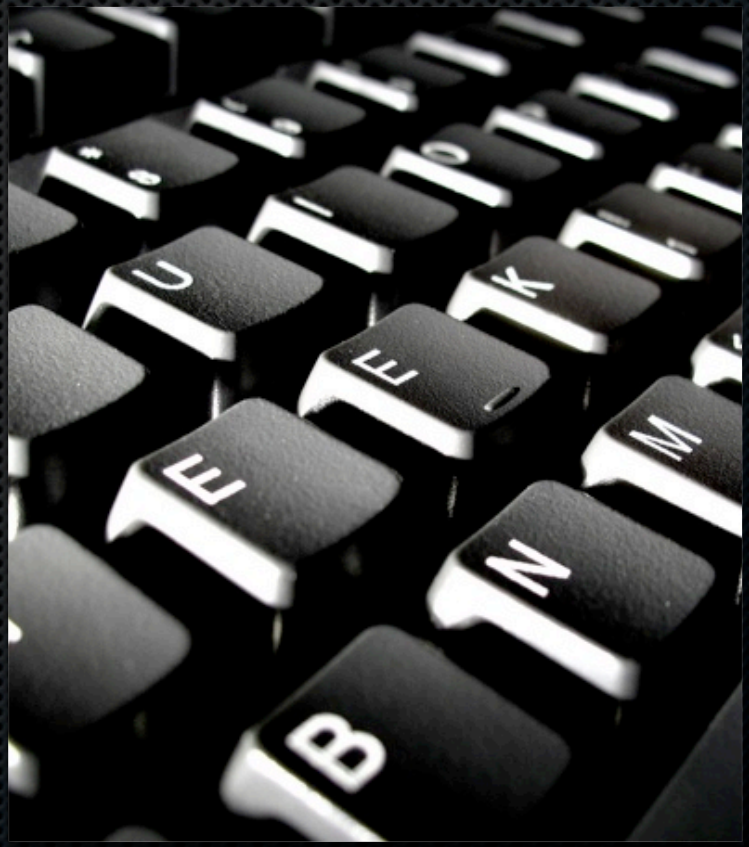


Image credit

Student Learning

- multiple learning styles
- asynchronous review
- point of need help
- anonymity

Image credit

Promotion

- Social networks
- LMS one-stop shop

Image credit

Embedding in the T&L Centre

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We are challenged to engage with faculty ...in designing integrated learning experiences for students that will help them develop their skills over the course of their undergraduate careers. This partnership role is one that is very different from that of invited guest lecturer.

Williams (2009)

Embedded Model: Secondment

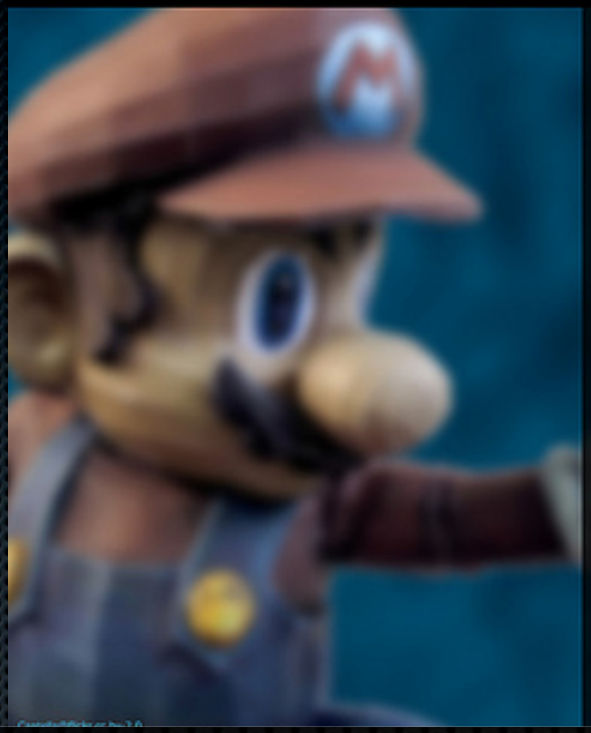
2009: Embedded T&L Librarian

- Launching Communities of Practice
- Digital Media Literacy (DML) course design

2010: T&L Development Officer

- Quality Assurance Framework and degree level learning outcomes

Q: How do I play video games in the Lyons New Media Centre?



1. Go to the Lyons Room Bookings page and book a gaming station:

   http://library.mcmaster.ca/mrbs_lnmc

2. Choose the game(s) you wish to play by the door.

3. Sign out the game(s) and controller(s) at the Help Desk

4. Sign out using your student ID card.

5. Return the game(s) and controller(s) to the Help Desk when finished.

Digital Media Literacy

DML Course Objectives

- Develop and apply critical thinking skills;
- Explore controversies and issues related to digital media within a social sciences' framework; and
- Improve students' communication skills and ability to use ICT effectively.

Quality Assurance

- Increasing focus in HE globally
- Accountability and / or enhancement
    - measuring inputs & outputs
    - focus on student learning outcomes (OBE)

Outcome-based Education

One obvious way in which universities have sought to articulate their role and purpose is through a description of the qualities of their graduates.

Barrie (2006)

T&L Centres and QA

- Increasing focus on educational developers and T&L centres as change agents (Fletcher & Patrick, 1993; Taylor (2005); Haynes & Stensaker (2006)
- Promoting student-centered learning
  - Curriculum mapping of program-level learning outcomes

Reframing IL as metaliteracy

- 21st century skills/fluencies & attributes
  - U.S.
  - Canada
  - Australia

Embedded Model

- Me: physically located in the CLL ✓
- Salary paid by the unit (secondment) ✓
- Dual report to CLL and Library ✓
- Participated in activities of both groups ✓
- Integrated into the unit's activities ✓

Embedded Model

- traditional skills & competencies combined with advanced knowledge of customer domain ✓
- application changes, but underlying skills remain essential ✓
- effective ✓
- sustainable ✓
- transferable ✓

Summaries

Discussion/Questions

What kind of embedded roles do you have at your library?

Final Vote

Which of our models do you think is most effective at building campus relationships and improving student learning?

1. Embedded into a Program
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