



Review

The Embedded Librarian: Innovative Strategies for Taking Knowledge Where It's Needed

David Shumaker. Medford: NJ: Information Today, Inc., 2012. 240 pp. ISBN: 978-1-57387-452-6. \$49.50.

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According to author David Shumaker, "Embedded librarianship is a distinctive innovation that moves the librarians out of libraries and creates a new model of library and information work. It emphasizes the importance of forming a strong working relationship between the librarian and a group or team of people who need the librarian's information expertise" (p. 4). He says librarians must become embedded in their workplace because "The changes taking place in society demand that we do" (p. 197). In this book, he gives a detailed argument for why embedded librarianship needs to be the direction librarians take in the future.

The book is divided into two parts. The first part gives a thorough explanation of the history, present circumstances, and an outlook for the future of embedded librarianship. Shumaker does an excellent job of giving equal coverage of embedded librarianship in academic, health sciences, and corporate libraries. He reviews the literature of embedded librarianship programs across the U.S. and relates their stories in an easy to read style. The second chapter is perhaps the most compelling as it lays out the "Forces Driving Embedded Librarianship" (pp. 21-41). He explains that embedded

librarianship is about creating relationships and partnerships rather than single-transaction service.

The second part of the book gives a plan for how the reader can “create, strengthen, and sustain” their own embedded role or program at their organization (p.121). Again, Shumaker is careful to keep these strategies and approaches general enough to apply to any type of library environment. He gives helpful assessment survey examples as well as evaluation charts and uses several hypothetical examples to illustrate best practices at each stage of implementing and sustaining a successful embedded librarianship program.

David Shumaker has written a comprehensive book overviewing embedded librarianship and the best practices and approaches to creating successful embedded programs. This is a great read for any librarian or library manager looking for a guide for innovating their library services.

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