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12-1-2014

# A Review of “Fundamentals for the Academic Liaison.”

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Sweeper, Darren, "A Review of “Fundamentals for the Academic Liaison.”" (2014). *Sprague Library Scholarship and Creative Works*. 33. <https://digitalcommons.montclair.edu/spraguelib-facpubs/33>

### Published Citation

Sweeper, Darren. "A Review of “Fundamentals for the Academic Liaison.”" Richard Moniz, Jo Henry, and Joe Eshleman. 2014. Chicago, IL: ALA Editions Neal-Schuman, 208 pp. ISBN: 9781555709679." (2014): 304-305.

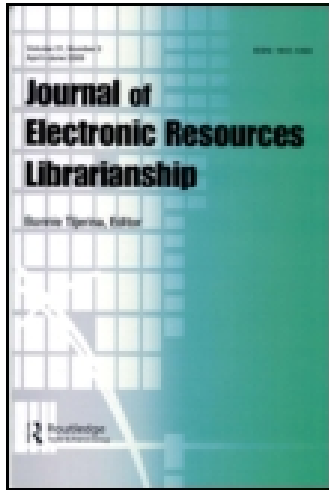
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This article was downloaded by: [Montclair State University], [Darren Sweeper]

On: 27 March 2015, At: 12:02

Publisher: Routledge

Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales Registered Number: 1072954 Registered office: Mortimer House, 37-41 Mortimer Street, London W1T 3JH, UK



## Journal of Electronic Resources Librarianship

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/wacq20>

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Published online: 01 Dec 2014.



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To cite this article: Darren Sweeper (2014) A Review of "Fundamentals for the Academic Liaison.", *Journal of Electronic Resources Librarianship*, 26:4, 304-305, DOI: [10.1080/1941126X.2014.972120](https://doi.org/10.1080/1941126X.2014.972120)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/1941126X.2014.972120>

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their research data can be properly documented, accessed, organized, and discovered. The authors consider metadata services as one of the most useful services librarians can provide to researchers since almost all of them are not really interested nor have the ability to create metadata.

Chapters 6 and 7 deal with data preservation and access. Both short- and long-term data preservation are important considerations that researchers need to think about, especially since most of the data sets now are mostly digital. Access to data is crucial to enable research results to be discovered and shared by a wider audience. It is at this point where librarians can assist researchers in making their data available through their institutional repositories or other external repositories appropriate for their field.

Chapter 8 is mostly concerned with data governance issues. The authors discuss issues such as licensing terms and agreements, copyrights, contracts, ownership, privacy, and confidentiality clauses. These are important parts of data management that librarians must communicate clearly to researchers from the beginning of their projects.

This book is a must read for librarians planning on introducing data management services. It is particularly useful to data management or data curation librarians who need a cursory overview of what it entails to implement this service. This LITA Guide definitely hit a homerun in this arena.

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Richard Moniz, Jo Henry, and Joe Eshleman. 2014. *Fundamentals for the Academic Liaison*. Chicago, IL: ALA Editions Neal-Schuman, 208 pp. ISBN: 9781555709679.

Academic libraries have devoted considerable resources as well as a sizable body of scholarship to the concept of the library liaison. Often seen as the face of the library, the academic liaison bridges the gap between the library and university community. In their new book, *Fundamentals for the Academic Liaison*, Richard Moniz, Jo Henry, and Joe Eshleman have written an important book that will help develop the skills and strengthen the responsibilities of the library liaison.

The role of subject specialist is crucial to teaching research skills and analytical abilities to students who are sorely lacking them. This book captures the nature of the crucial work of the library liaison in straightforward language that can be easily applied to most academic library environments. Each of the 11 chapters covers an important aspect of the liaison's role and responsibilities in the academic library.

In the first chapter entitled, "Faculty/Staff Orientation Meetings," the authors address the important issue of liaisons connecting with faculty and staff during the early stages of a new semester. These initial meetings are vital to the ongoing relationship among librarians, faculty, and students. The authors also stress the need to establish strong relationships at the outset in order to lay the groundwork for enhanced professional work relationships. The second chapter, "Subject Expertise," deals with what I consider to be one of the most salient aspects of the library liaison. The authors state, "One of major components to a liaison's success is acquiring subject knowledge." Chapter 3 speaks to the importance of establishing healthy lines of communication between the liaison and faculty before delving

into the more technical aspects of the position in the creation and use of online tutorials in Chapter 4.

In the fifth chapter, "Faculty Assistance," the authors consider the methods for liaisons to assist faculty members in the classroom: technical assistance, assignment support, research project design, and information literacy integration. In the sixth chapter, "Collection Development," the authors address the vital role that liaisons play in building and maintaining materials for research, teaching, and learning. This chapter highlights the importance of spending accountability, access versus ownership of materials, and budget allocation for materials.

As a library liaison, the duty of teaching library instruction sessions is absolutely essential, and, in the seventh chapter, "Teaching Information Literacy," the authors write about this important aspect of the job. They make special reference to reinforcing the importance of information literacy and especially understanding the learning standards and the lifelong value of information literacy. In Chapters 8, 9, and 10, the authors switch their attention to embedded librarianship, library guides, and accreditation and new courses, respectively. In the eleventh and final chapter of the book, entitled "Evaluation," the authors conclude by discussing the importance of evaluating the entire liaison process: determining what is evaluated, defining the sample population, choosing the evaluation format, selecting and implementing methods, and writing a summary report.

All in all, this book is well worth the read. The authors clearly know what they are talking about. I would recommend that all librarians with subject specialist duties read this book. If the authors' recommendations are followed, the reader will come away with all the tools and knowledge needed to establish a successful library liaison program. I would have liked it if the authors had added more detailed information about time management. I would have also liked to have seen more information about independent study and subject expertise, but, overall, the authors have written a work that will become indispensable to new and experienced liaison librarians alike.

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Julia Bauder. 2014. *The Reference Guide to Data Sources*. Chicago, IL: ALA Editions, 172 pp. ISBN: 978-0-8389-1227-0.

For those libraries that cannot afford a data services librarian, this book is an essential reference source for the library. The author has focused on providing libraries without dedicated data services or data staff a reference guide for answering these types of questions. Because the primary audience does not have these dedicated services and staff, this book refers only to freely available, online sources for data. After a General Sources chapter, the following 24 thematic chapters are listed alphabetically, from agriculture and food to spatial data (a quick breakdown includes major areas of crime, earth sciences, economics, education, energy, and political science, to name a few). Each chapter is divided into three categories: major sources for U.S. data, major sources for international data, and minor sources.