From Pop-Up Library Initiative to Peer Reviewed Publication: Some thoughts and tips

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The University of Birmingham

- Approx. 33,000 students from over 150 countries
- Approx. 6,000 FTE staff
- Library Collections:
  - 2.6 million items
  - 51,000 journals
  - 700,000 eBooks
The New Main Library
What we did

- Taking “the library” to the students
  - Temporary, staffed stalls at locations around the campus

- Extending the “reach” of “the library”
  - Getting out amongst existing users
  - Engagement of non-users

- Listening as well as disseminating
  - Opportunities for:
    - Students to ask questions
    - Staff to hear student perceptions

- Fits in with University aims and the literature
What we achieved

- 23 locations
- Engagement with c.1000 students
  - Including non-users
- Varied conversations
- 300 survey responses
  - Helps with engagement
  - Data gathering
    - Student perceptions
- 80% of respondents to a longitudinal survey took positive action
Unique aspects

- Large-scale
  - Variety of locations, themes, timings
  - In house and supplier literature / freebies
  - A large pool of staff
- Funded project
- Development of a brand
- External training
Could this be published?

- Many unique aspects
- Quantitative data (high statistics)
- Impact data
- Limited literature already on a directly comparable project
- Too in-depth for SCONUL Focus
- NRoAL Special Issue call
- Published in NRoAL previously
Writing the Article

- Three members of the project team interested in academic writing / getting published
- A rough structure of the article developed
- Workload split evenly
- Regular meetings with “mini deadlines” (and coffee!!)
- Proof reading / editing / reducing
‘Top’ tips

- Enjoy writing
- Meet regularly and have “mini goals”
- Similar styles and get on with who you are working with
- Start early and don’t underestimate time needed
- Be prepared to edit, edit, edit…
- Master documents in shared area with version control
Benefits

- Article published in NRoAL
- Article published in edited book (bonus!)
- Enjoyed writing the article
- Learnt more about the field
- Greater feel for the peer-review process (useful for ‘day job’)
- Widely available project summary
- Internal and External contacts
Contacts and Article details

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