

Conceptions of Research among Academic Librarians and Archivists

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The Research Cycle



What are academic librarians' and archivists' conceptions of research?

How do those conceptions compare to previously studied conceptions of faculty and graduate students?

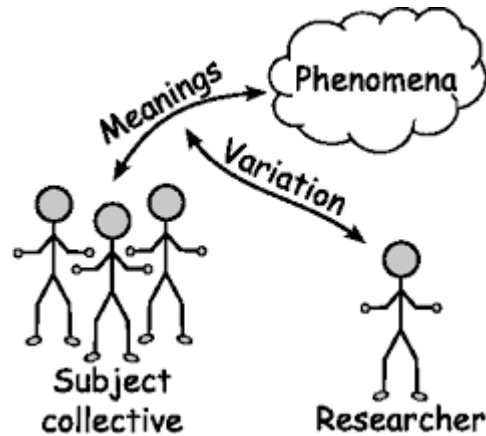
Literature on faculty conceptions of research

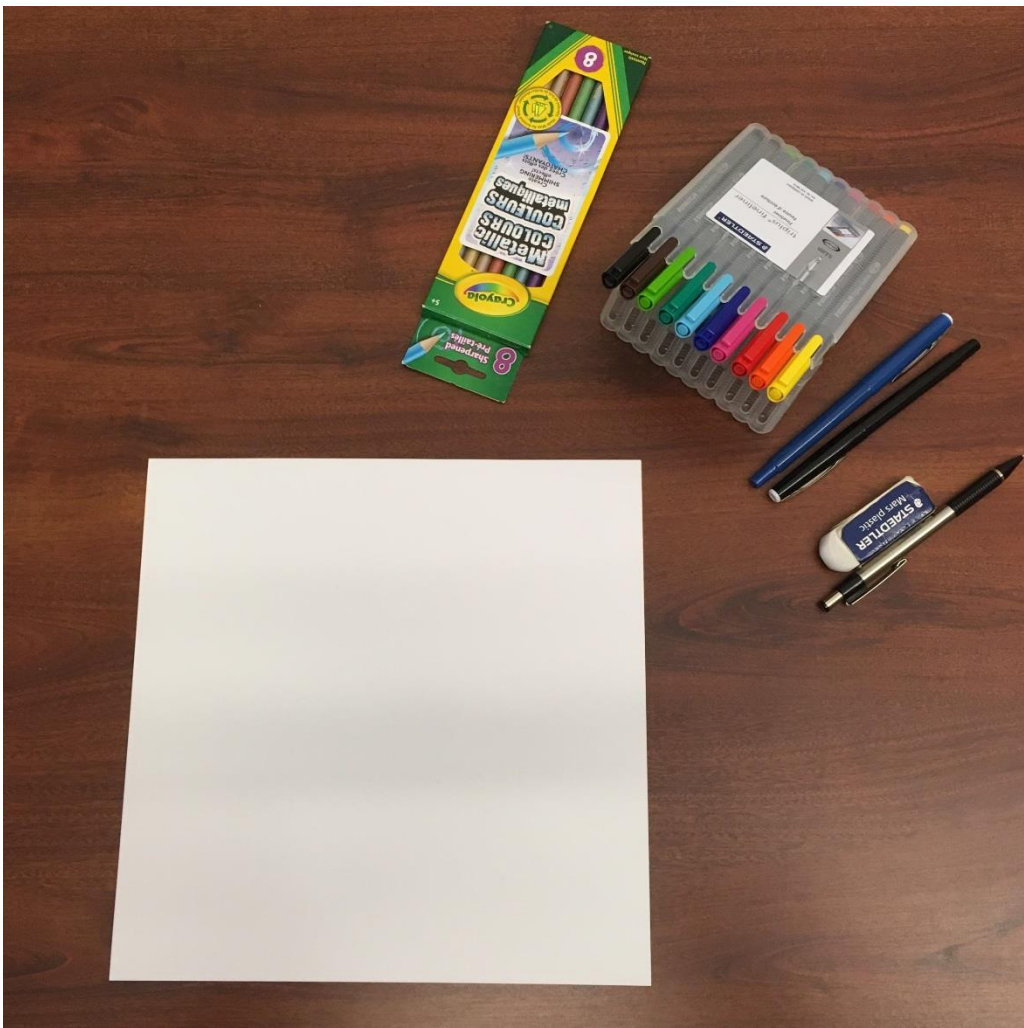
- Process of synthesizing
- Social marketplace
- Process of discovering, uncovering
- Personal journey
- Academic duty
- Personal achievement
- Route to personal understanding
- Impetus for change

(Brew 2001)

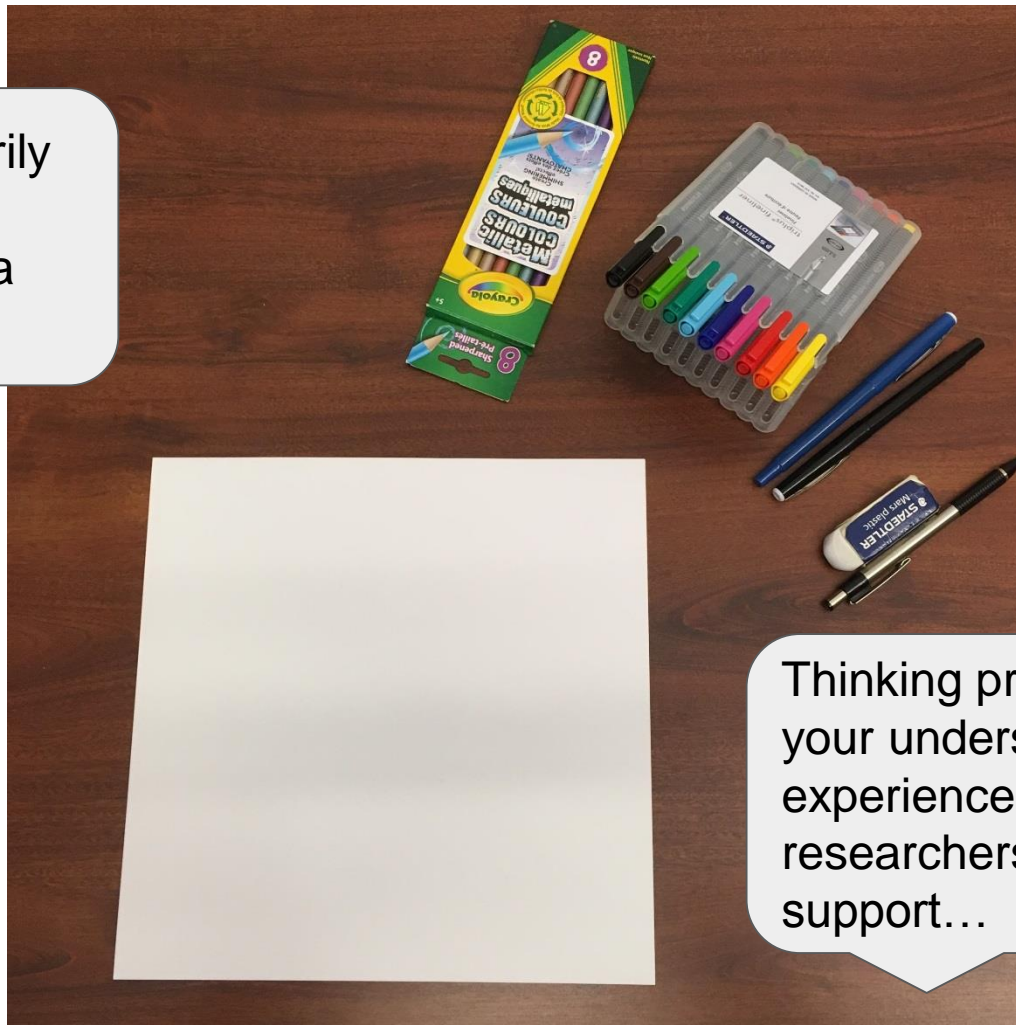
(Åkerlind 2008)

Phenomenography: to investigate “the variation of conceptions related to a given phenomenon” (Cibangu and Hepworth 2016)

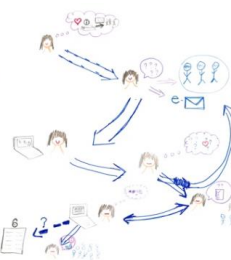
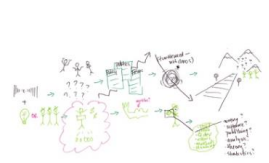




Thinking primarily
of your own
experience as a
researcher...



Thinking primarily about
your understanding of the
experience of the
researchers you
support...



Great Research Plan

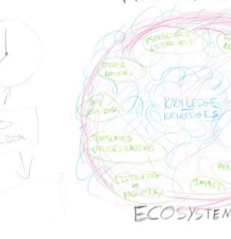
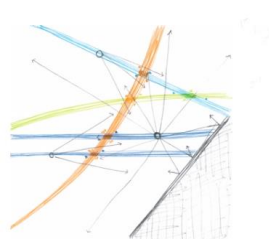
- 1. Define the research question
- 2. Conduct a literature search
- 3. Select the research design
- 4. Recruit participants
- 5. Collect data
- 6. Analyse data
- 7. Interpret findings
- 8. Write up the report

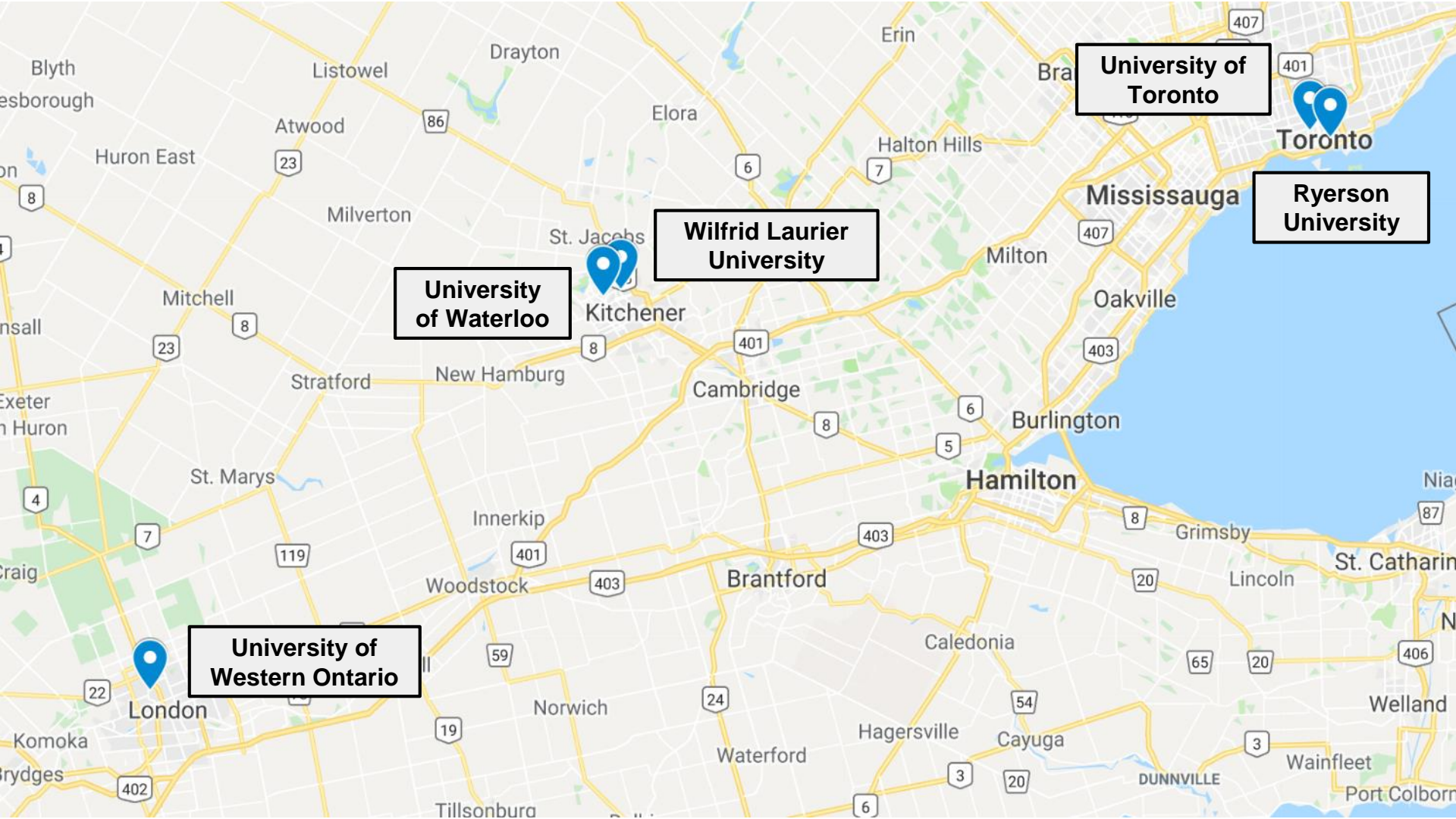
Write the Abstract:

- 1. State the research question
- 2. Summarise the methods used
- 3. Report the main findings
- 4. Conclude with the main message

Abstract

- 1. State the research question
- 2. Summarise the methods used
- 3. Report the main findings
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University of Toronto

Ryerson University

Wilfrid Laurier University

University of Waterloo

University of Western Ontario

Six Conceptions of Research

1. Research is a shared, community experience
2. Research leads to learning and growth
3. Research is influenced by personal and professional experience
4. Research is a process involving interrelated components
5. Research involves refining and answering a question
6. **Research by librarians and archivists is not “real” research**

and

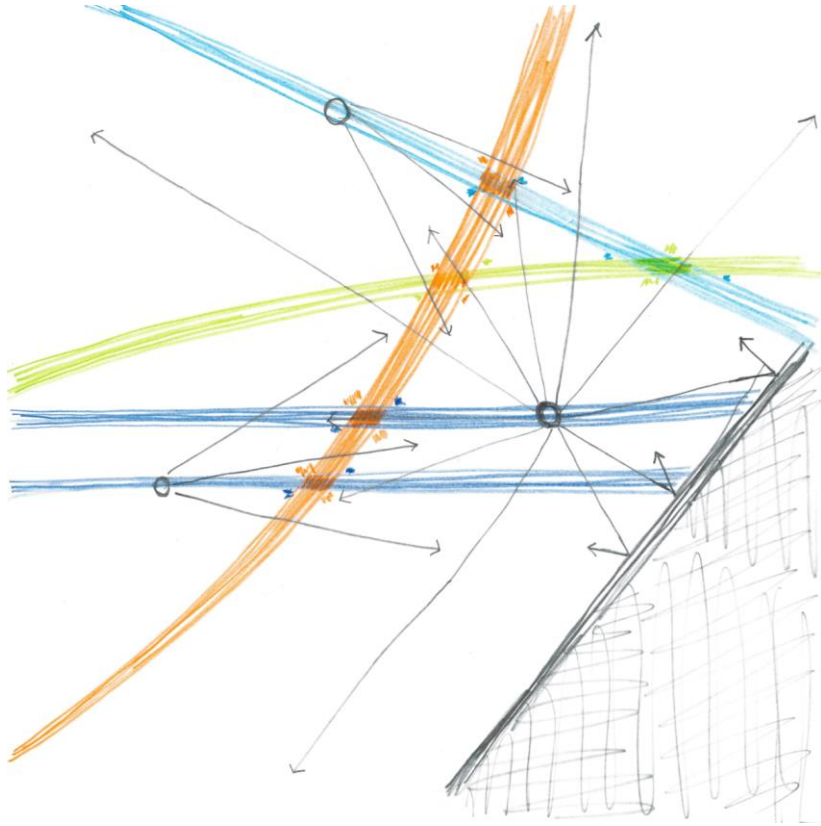
Librarians and archivists support research

Research by librarians and archivists
is not “real” research

Aspects of this conception

- How research is defined
- Librarian research / library science as disciplines
- Research structures and cultures
- Comparisons to faculty researchers
- Potential value of librarian/archivist research





My work doesn't generate these moments, they're generated some other way.

The Perceived Legitimacy of the Role

Are practitioner-researchers “real” researchers? A prominent complaint about some publications in librarianship is that there are very many cases of the “how we done it good” papers: authors engage in superficial
(Wilson 2013)



The Shady Librarian

@throwing_shayde

Follow



Today is a huge Imposter Syndrome day. I'm trying to finish up this proposal to a conference but simultaneously feeling like no one wants to hear what I have to say. I'm just a librarian.

11:47 AM - 6 Mar 2019

5 Retweets 74 Likes



Another key contribution to my experiences of IS is the expectation to conduct research. I have struggled with what it means to be a librarian doing research in higher education. What really makes someone a researcher? I know that there are varying levels of confidence in the research skills of librarians, and I feel a sense of being unsure and uncertain of my own skills. Participating in the Canadian Association of Research
(Lacey and Parlette-Stewart 2017)

Librarians and archivists
support research



Exploration / Point of need
G + UG
F



I need to find....



I am working on
I need this one paper



I am looking for these 2 papers.....
Can you help me again?



my labmate said you want a great help...
Can you help me too.....



I forgot everything.
Help me again please.

I think librarian research is sort of complicated. We are research support, we are researchers ourselves, we are principal investigators, we collaborate with researchers, we do assessment and evaluation.

Service repertoire

The service repertoire was found in the text and speech of librarians throughout the data set. Service, broadly defined, was often considered to be the essence of librarianship. Service included activities such as public services (for instance, reference, instruction, and reader's advisory), technology services (from helping people with e-readers to providing public-access computers), the organization of
(Hicks 2014)

3. Librarianship is a service profession. The ethical basis and values of librarianship are derived from its inherent service orientation. Librarians serve users of their own and other libraries, their parent institutions, and the discipline.

(Hill 1994)

Supporting research by becoming a researcher: how librarians can use their own research experience to benefit library users

Academic librarians support researchers every day. Whether it is an undergraduate researching for a dissertation, a research student writing a proposal for a doctoral project, or a senior professor producing an article for a high impact journal, we are regularly invited to support the research process in a multitude of ways.

(Pickton 2013)

Research by librarians and archivists is not “real” research.

Librarians and archivists support research.

Forthcoming paper:

Doucette, Lise and Kristin Hoffmann. 2019. “Conceptions of Research Among Academic Librarians and Archivists.” *Canadian Journal of Academic Librarianship*. <https://www.cjal.ca>

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Slide 2, Image 1: McMaster Health Sciences Library. (2019). *The Researcher's Toolkit: The Research Cycle*. Retrieved from <https://hslmcmaster.libguides.com/research-toolkit>

Slide 2, Image 2: Wallace, D.P., and Van Fleet, C. *Knowledge into Action: Research and Evaluation in Library and Information Science*. Santa Barbara: Libraries Unlimited, 2012.

Slide 5: Boustedt, J. (2008). A methodology for exploring students' experiences and interaction with large-scale software through role-play and phenomenography. *Proceeding of the Fourth International Workshop on Computing Education Research - ICER '08*, 27–38. <https://doi.org/10.1145/1404520.1404524>

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