Emerging Online Roles for Academic Librarians in Canada
HELLO!

I am Heather McTavish, MISt

I’m here to tell you a little about my current research...
The ‘blended librarian’...combines the traditional skill set of librarianship with the information technologist's hardware/software skills, and the instructional or educational designer's ability to apply technology appropriately in the teaching-learning process. (Bell & Shank, 2004).
RESEARCH PURPOSES

★ To explore the online teaching roles of academic librarians in Canada.
★ To uncover the teaching and technology skills required of these roles.
★ To assess librarians’ the level of preparedness for online roles.
GAPS IN THE LITERATURE

Pedagogy
Canadian academic librarians’ online instructional practices and methods have not been examined.

Technology
Specifics about technology use in their online instructional practice are undocumented.

Preparedness
No research to date looks at how Canadian academic librarians report their level of preparedness to teach online.
RESEARCH QUESTIONS

★ What roles do Canadian academic teaching librarians report undertaking in online learning environments?

★ What specific online instructional skills and pedagogical knowledge are required of librarians in these roles?

★ What technology do they report in their online practice?

★ How do instruction librarians who teach in online learning environments report their level of preparedness?
THE SURVEY

★ Sections were organized to align with the research questions
★ Encompassed a variety of closed-ended and open-ended questions.
★ Two ListServs provided the sampling frames
- Asynchronous (e.g., creating learning objects for students to access on their own time, moderating discussion forum posts)
- Synchronous (e.g., live instructional sessions via video conferencing software)
- Both Modalities
- No Response
Instructional Practices
More online instruction is happening in academic libraries than has previously been reported.

Training
Instructional librarians are learning to work online while on the job and not necessarily through preparatory courses.
THANKS!

Any questions?

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CREDITS

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References
