

***Emerging Online
Roles for
Academic
Librarians in
Canada***

Concordia Library Research Forum

April 26, 2019



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 the 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 ListSers provided the sampling frames

Online Instructional Practices of Canadian Academic Librarians

TECHNOLOGY FOR ONLINE INSTRUCTION

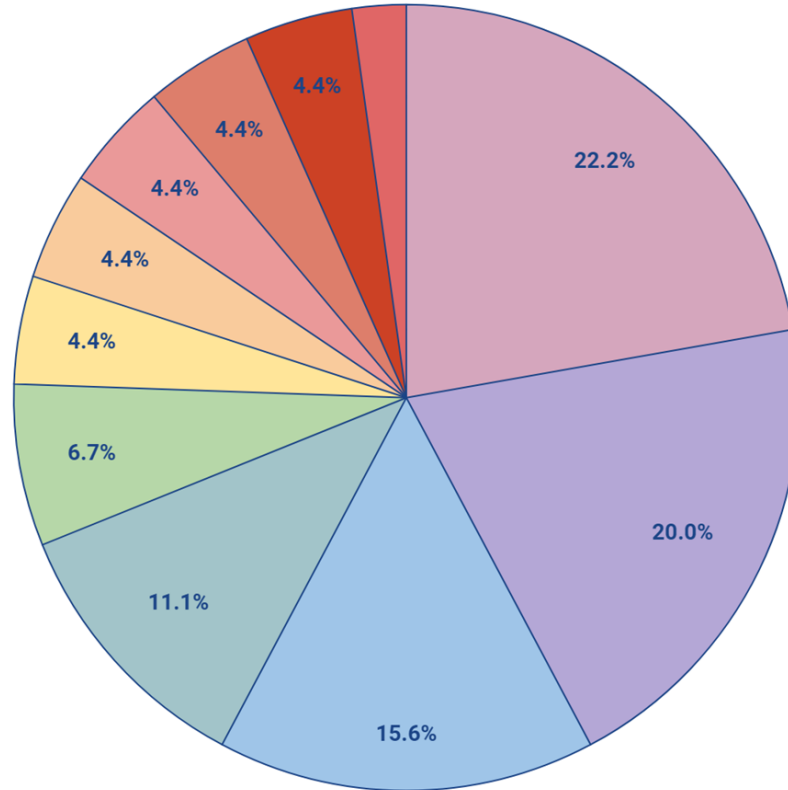
Please indicate the extent to which you use the following general technologies as part of your online instructional practice, then list any specific software and tool(s) you use and describe how you use them.

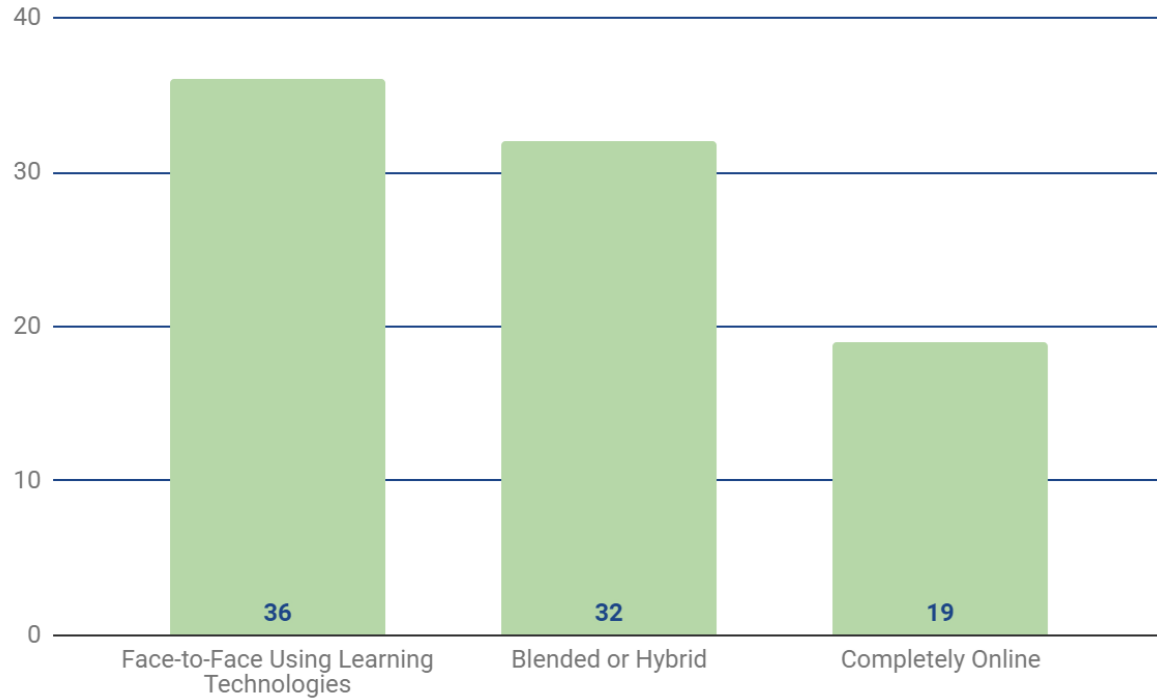
What online tools do you use to connect learners to content?

	Never use	Sometimes use	Use frequently	Is an important part of my practice	I don't understand what this is
Learning Management Systems (e.g., Blackboard, Moodle, Canvas, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Learning Technologies (e.g., Padlet, OneNote, GSuite, Wikis, Social Media, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Video Conferencing (e.g., Skype, Adobe Connect, Google Hangouts)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



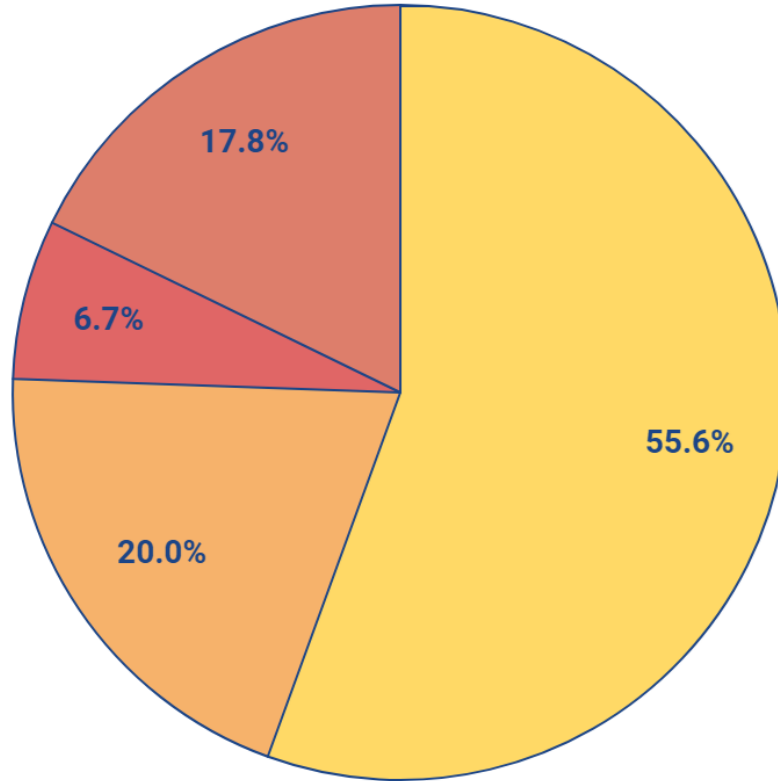
- Librarians (General)
- Subject and Liaison Librarians
- Public/Information/Access Services Librarians
- Teaching or Learning and Curriculum Support Librarians
- Elearning Librarians
- Chief and University Librarians
- Instruction and Reference Librarians
- Not Specified
- Non-Librarian Positions
- Student Success Librarians
- Digital Projects Librarians (2.2%)

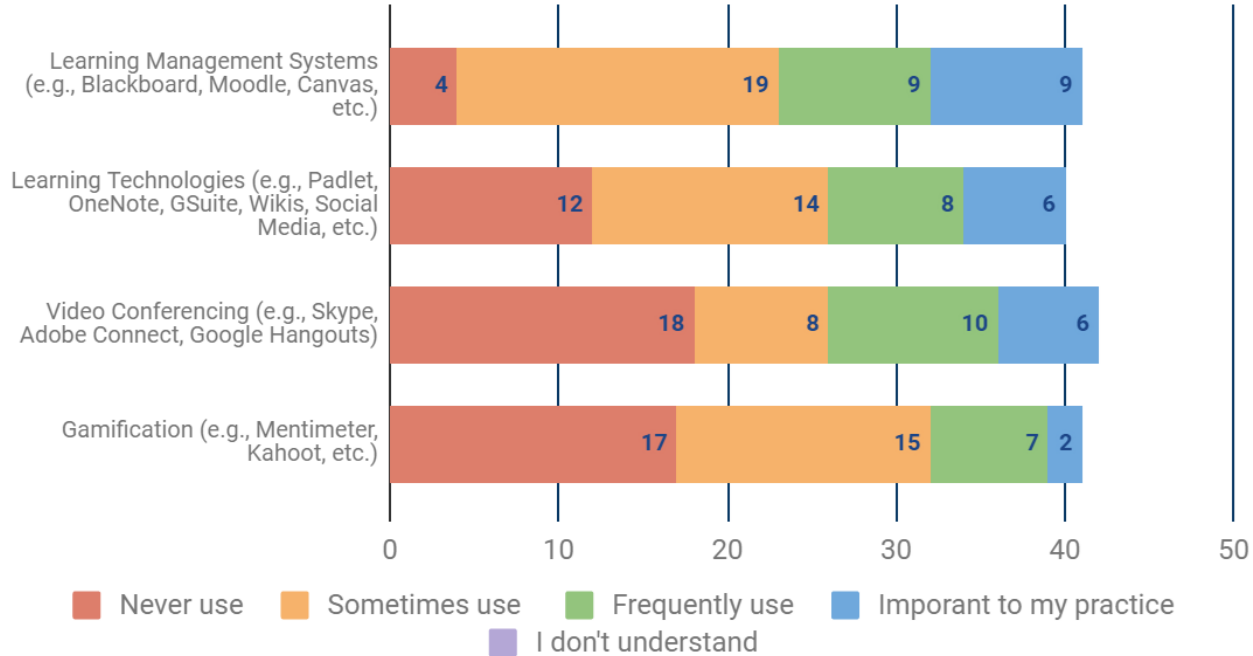




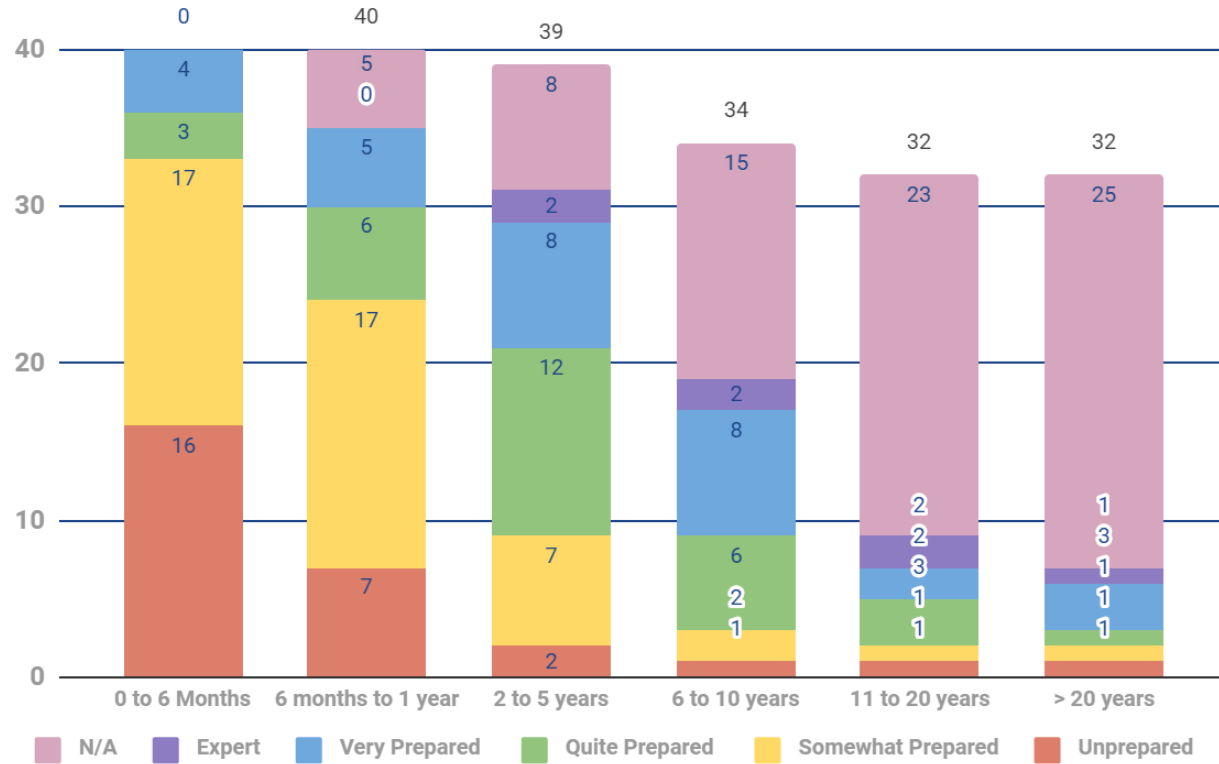


- Asynchronous (e.g., creating learning objects for students to access on their own time, moderating discussion forum posts)
- Synchronous (e.g., live instructional sessions via video conferencing software)
- Both Modalities
- No Response









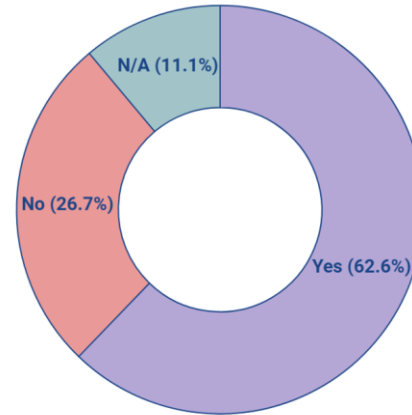


PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS

Instructional Practices

More online instruction is happening in academic libraries than has previously been reported.

Increase in Online Instruction



Training

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



THANKS!

Any questions?

Electronic mail me: heather.mctavish@uoit.ca

Tweet me: [@mctavish_h](https://twitter.com/mctavish_h)



CREDITS

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

- ★ Presentation template by [SlidesCarnival](#)



References

- Bates, A. W. (2015). *Teaching in a digital age: Guidelines for designing teaching and learning*. Vancouver, BC: BCcampus. Retrieved from <https://opentextbc.ca/teachinginadigitalage/>
- Bell, S. J., & Shank, J. D. (2004). The blended librarian. A blueprint for redefining the teaching and learning role of academic libraries. *College & Research Libraries News*, 65(7), 372-375.