

SO YOU WANT TO BE A LIBRARIAN?

Barbara Rothen Renner and Lee Richardson

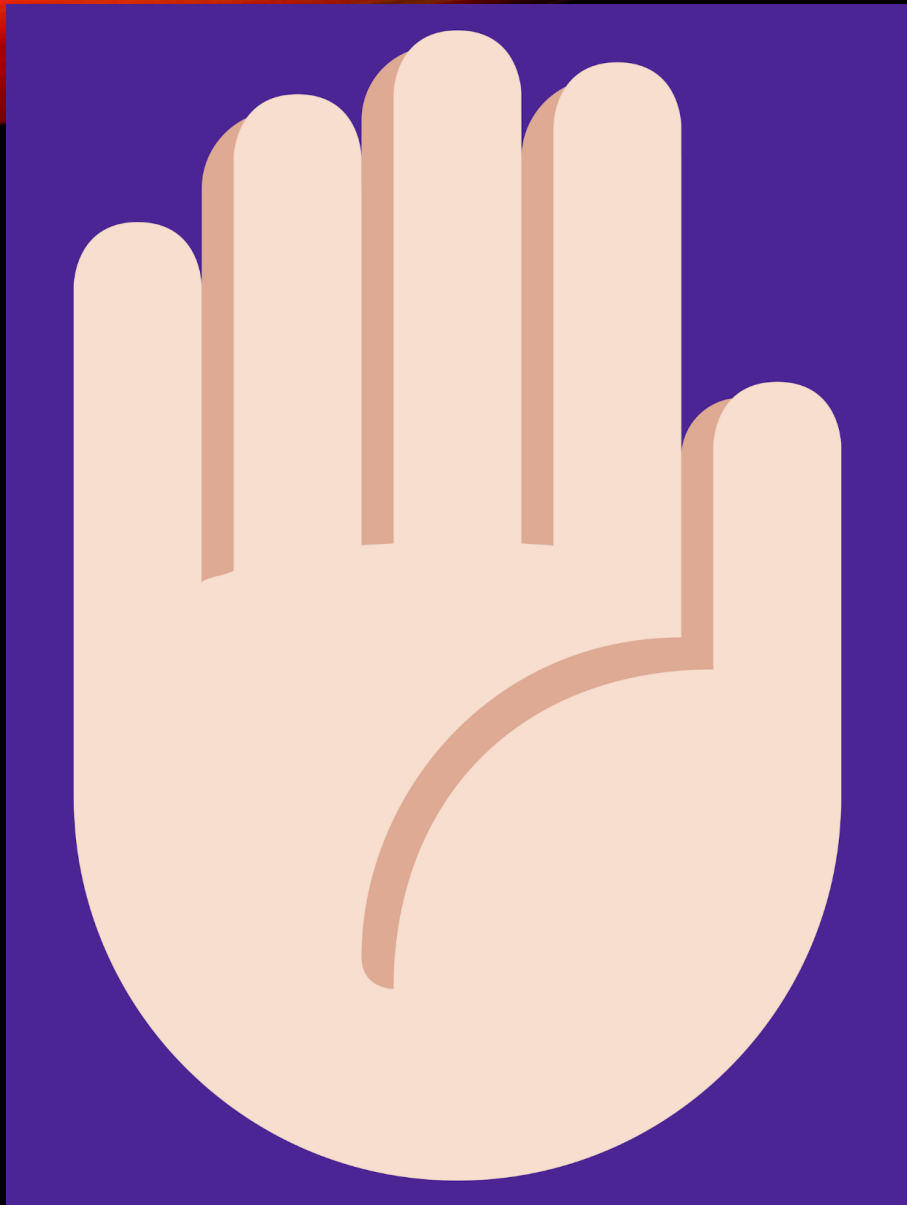
Health Sciences Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

*North Carolina Library Association Sections Virtual Conference
February 8, 2019*

HOW IT STARTED

- Allied Health Sciences Liaison, Barbara Renner, contacted by faculty member
 - Teen son wants to be a librarian
 - Rising high school senior
 - Prior volunteer experience with school libraries and small public library
 - Teen wanted to talk to an academic librarian
 - Information on different kinds of libraries and librarians
 - Advice on choosing undergraduate area of study
 - Leaning toward school media specialist but not sure
- Liaison asked metadata librarian, Lee Richardson, to participate



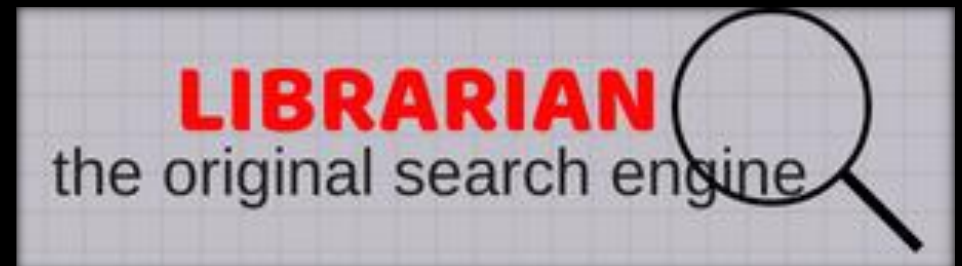


AUDIENCE RESPONSE

- **Raise your hand** if you've ever been contacted by teens wanting to learn more about library career?

INFORMATION

- Gathered information for student
 - Different types of librarians
 - Considerations for an undergraduate degree
 - Library degree masters programs
- Good resources on the web but spread out across lots of sites
- Not many library career resources aimed at/designed for teens
 - Some resources outdated, visually unappealing for age group
- Created guide to bring resources together
 - Designed mostly for teens but useful for anyone
 - Focus on informative and fun



LIBRARY CAREER GUIDE

- Used LibGuides vs. website software
 - Familiarity
 - LibGuides indexed in libraries subject guides
- WE ARE NOT WEB DESIGN EXPERTS!
 - Worked within parameters of LibGuides
 - Consulted research on web design for teens



Shhhh!

WEBSITE DESIGN FOR TEENAGERS



- Mostly used Nielson Norman Group research
 - <https://www.nngroup.com/articles/usability-of-websites-for-teenagers/>
 - Usability studies in the US and Australia
- Write for impatient users
 - Avoid cluttered screen full of text
 - Text in small meaningful chunks with lots of white space
- No boring content
- Include interactive features
 - Lets teens do things instead of just reading

When You're in Charge

When you become a librarian, what collection will you start?

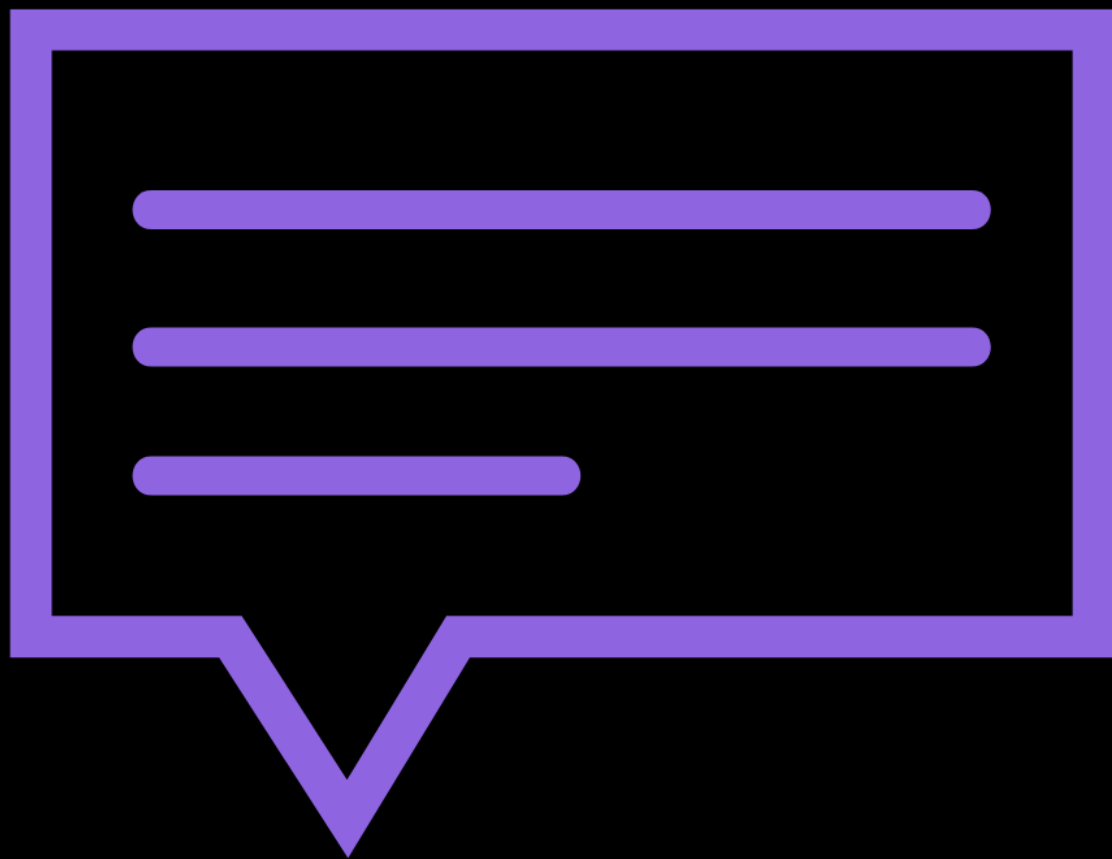


Your Library Collection

- ☐ Potato chips that look like US presidents
- ☐ Books with exactly 104 pages
- ☐ Barbie and Ken heads
- ☐ Plastic sporks

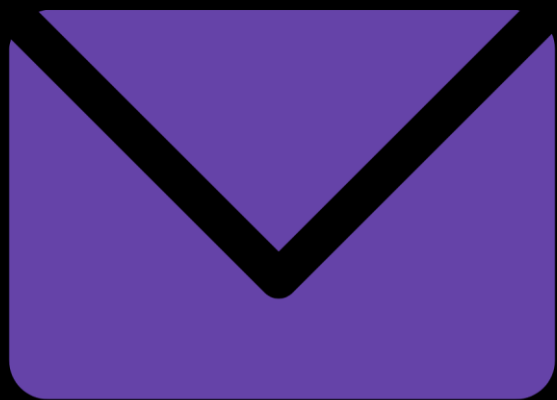
Submit

AUDIENCE RESPONSE

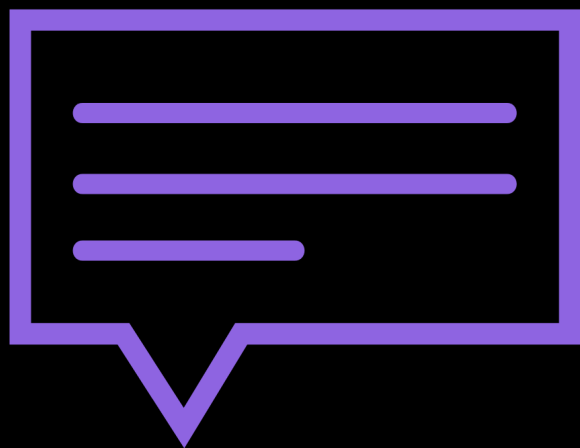


- **Chat Box**
Have you worked in a library with library career resources or programming for teens?
- Where?
- Tell us a little

AUDIENCE RESPONSE



- So You Want to Be A Librarian?
<https://guides.lib.unc.edu/wanna-be-librarian>

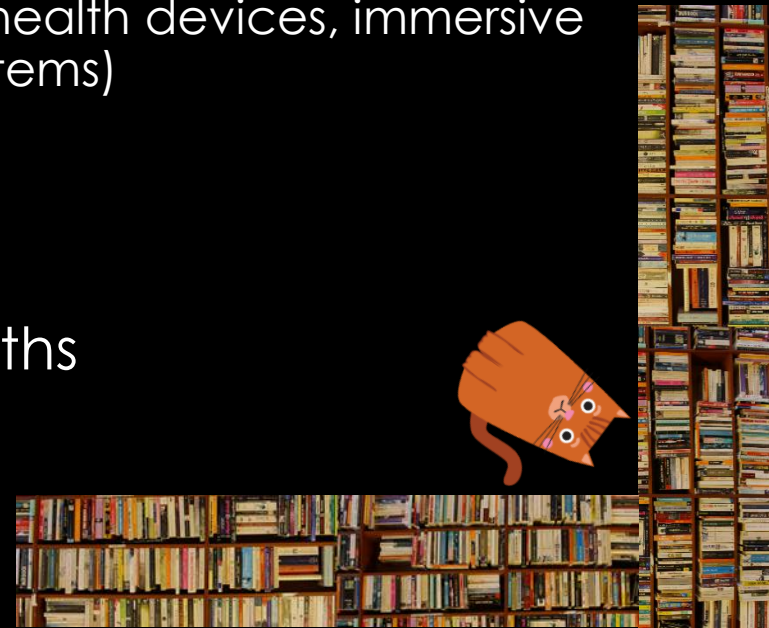


- **Email or chat:**
 - Feedback
 - Additional content for guide

CAREER DAY PREP

Goal: give student a taste of variety of work in academic libraries

- Career Day Experience
 - Meetings with librarians across campus
 - Different specialties; included some managers
 - Showcased high appeal services (e.g., makerspace, digital health devices, immersive panoramic multi-display viewer, unusual special collections items)
- Provided background info on student
- Provided possible questions to stimulate discussion
- Suggested librarians talk about their work and career paths
 - Left it flexible for librarians to include anything of interest



CAREER DAY AT UNC

- Student visited with
 - Six librarians (mostly 30 minute meetings)
 - Four libraries
 - Over three days



This is Funny

What has a spine but no bones?

A book

Why is a math book always unhappy?

Because it always has lots of problems.



CAREER DAY AT UNC: THE LIBRARIANS

- Health Sciences Library
 - Liaison
 - Participated in seminar class
 - Information Discovery and Metadata Librarian
 - Library tour
 - Head of Health Technology and Informatics
 - Digital health device collection
- Kenan Science Library
 - Science Librarian
 - Demonstrated 3D printer and maker space



Pip stress management device



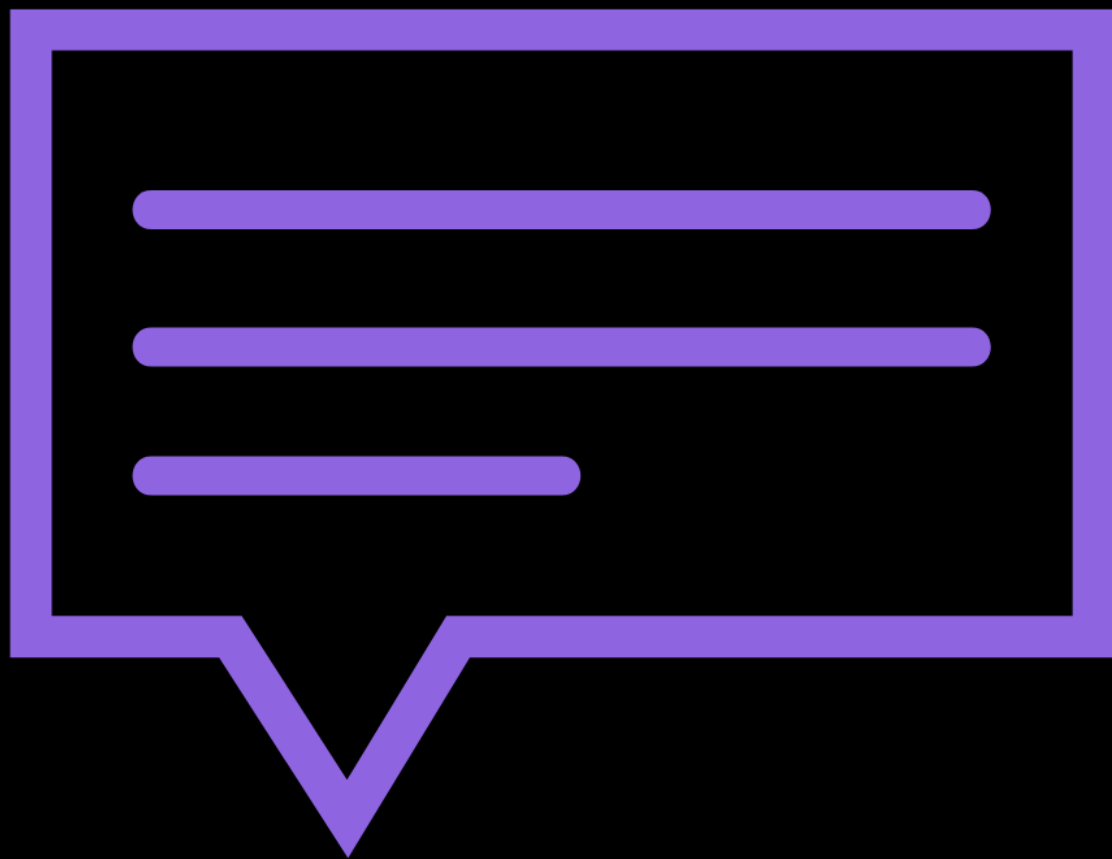


CAREER DAY AT UNC: THE LIBRARIANS CONTINUED

- Davis Library (central library)
 - Head of Digital Research Services
 - Research Hub with Liquid Galaxy
- Wilson Library (special collections)
 - Special Collections Librarian
 - Showed interesting items in collections



AUDIENCE RESPONSE



- **Chat Box**

If you were hosting a teen interested in library careers, what would you focus on?

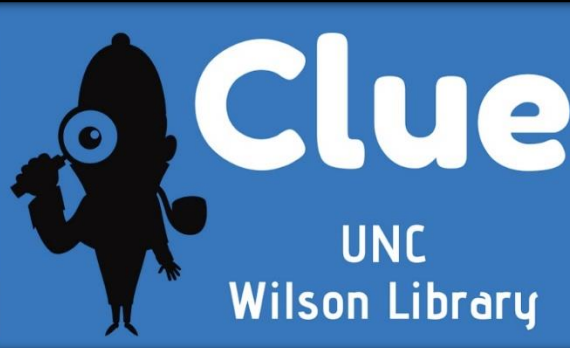
FEEDBACK & REFERRALS

- Librarian feedback: Student very quiet; maybe better to have another person for more discussion
- Student didn't have much feedback; thankful, enjoyed experience
- Student requested referrals for continued exploration
 - Local public, academic, government, corporate libraries
- Mom very pleased! Wanted son to have broader experience of libraries



FUTURE EXPLORATIONS

- Library strategic plan should inform future efforts
 - e.g., on demand and contained vs outreach and expansion
- Define project goals
 - e.g., pipeline to increase interest in medical librarianship?
 - e.g., pipeline to increase diversity and inclusion in profession?
- Assess resources (infrastructure and support)
- Assess need
 - e.g., how many people might want to explore a career in libraries?



FUTURE EXPLORATIONS, CONTINUED

- Should we seek partners? If so, whom?
 - UNC School of Library and Information Science, Triangle Research Libraries Network (TRLN), NC Area Health Education Centers (NC AHEC), other?
- Should we seek external funding sources (e.g. IMLS)?
- Evaluation (e.g. how formal, extensive)?





LOOKING BACK

- Limited time – make adjustments with more time to plan
- Include more formal evaluation piece?
 - Asked student, his mom and librarians for general feedback
 - Timing: just prior to start of new academic year, hard to get participants to devote significant time to evaluation

Movies with Librarians or Libraries



THANK YOU!

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