‘It’s what we do here’: embedding evidence-based practice at USQ Library

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What we will cover:

- How the Coordinator (Evidence Based Practice) role was created
- Influence and impact of the role across the Library
- A model for applying evidence-based practice to an organisational level
What is ‘evidence-based practice’?

A structured process of articulating questions or problems, collecting, interpreting and applying valid and reliable evidence to support decision making and continuous service improvement in professional practice.

Howlett and Thorpe, 2018
What is evidence?

A range of evidence supports professional practice and continuous service improvement.

Types of evidence are often combined and applied together to make decisions.

re-created from Koufogiannakis, D. 2011. Considering the place of practice-based evidence within Evidence Based Library and Information Practice (EBLIP). Library and Information Research, 35(111), 41-58.
EBLIP 5 A’s process

- Articulate
- Adapt
- Agree
- Assess
- Assemble

Being evidence-based

What we know…

- Application to specific situations (Abbott, 2006)
- EBLIP as a ‘way of being’, holistic (Partridge et al, 2010; Gillespie, 2014)
- Implementation is complex and influenced largely by context (Koufogiannakis, 2015)
- Driven by curiosity, an aspiration to do better, professional responsibility, keep up to date (Booth, 2002; Eldredge, 2000; Partridge et al, 2010)

But what about for strategic success or performance needs as an organisation?
More than data. More than reporting.

The Coordinator role is the Library’s commitment ‘in action’ to cultivate and develop capacity for evidence-based practice.
Embedding EBP:
the story so far

- Increased staff awareness and application of evidence-based practice
- Improved outcomes for clients
- Evidence-based practice into staff workflows
Increased staff awareness and application

USQ Library Content Framework
(Pearse, 2018)
Improved outcomes for clients

Student feedback on Springfield library seating options
Evidence-based practice in staff workflows

Library Systems Renewal Project was an opportunity to hone skills in recognising evidence and articulating evidence needs.
A lens for an evidence-based library

Howlett, 2018
Future research: evidence-based practice maturity

How can a library (or other organisation) be evidence-based?

What strategies, initiatives or activities can be implemented to develop a more mature EBP culture?
USQ Library is actively embedding evidence-based practice into its ‘way of being’.

Coordinator role has raised awareness of evidence-based practice and has made it more explicit in the ways we do our work, learn about our clients.

Evidence-based practice can be applied at an organisational level.