



Librarian in Residence Pilot at La Trobe University:

Extending the outreach to academics where
and when they want it

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Wednesday 6th November 2019

Background

- How do we find a way to increase visibility and expand our reach?
- Pilot a “Librarian in Residence” (LIR) program for six months in the schools.
- Senior Research Advisors and Research Coordinators spent time in the departments each week to offer services to staff and higher degree research students.

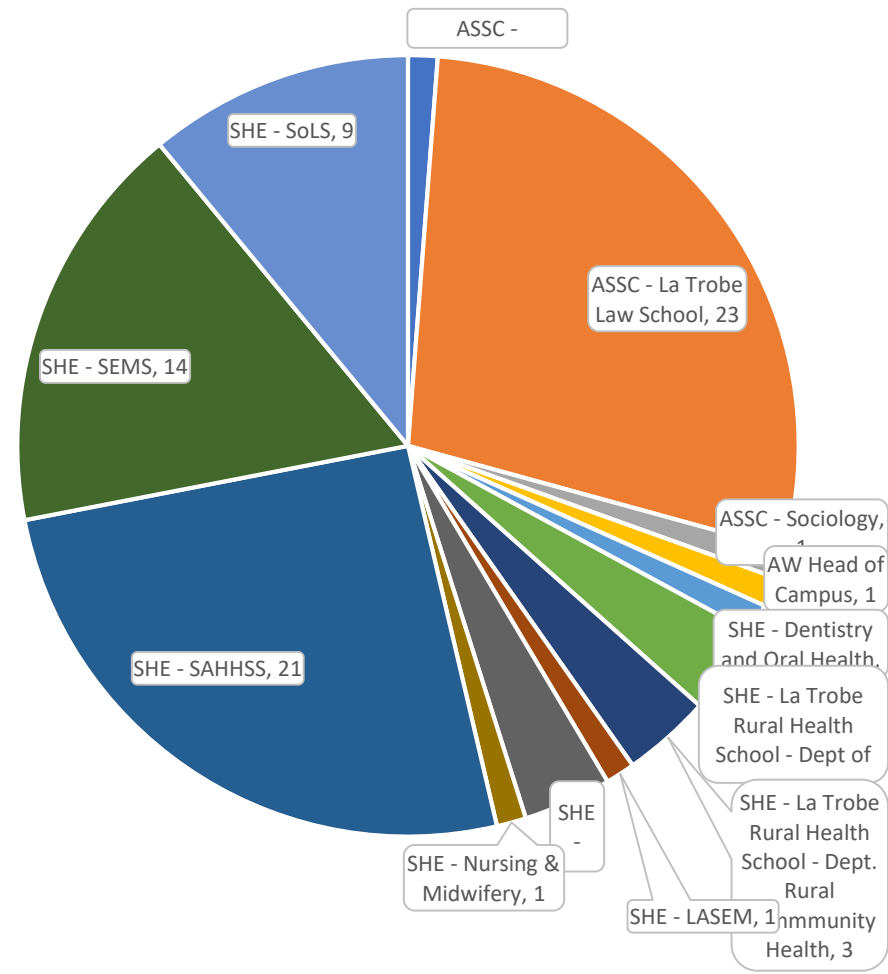
Objectives

- Create and enhance links with Directors of Research, School and Department heads, and researchers and graduate researchers
- Facilitate opportunities for the entire Research Partnerships team to be actively involved in outreach opportunities
- Enhance the role of the team as partners in the research process
- Reproduce coffee line conversations





Number of contacts by School



10 departments across 3 campuses
approx. 20 hours per week

82 interactions across all schools and locations – 27 ASSC College, 57 SHE College

La Trobe Law School the biggest user

Additional interactions with Heads of Research, Heads of Departments and Campus Coordinator at were invaluable

How did we go?

- Success measured by number and type of interactions and interviews with Heads of School/ Research post pilot.
- Librarian in Residence became a different way of “business as usual”.
- Strengthened collaboration with departments
- Research job log experienced an increase in requests for all services
- Team members have shown an increased belief in the power of this program sparking many ideas for the future.
- Reluctance from all departments for the pilot to cease.
- Implementation of a different way of doing the work we already do (outreach and values focussed)
- Qualitative feedback received was positive and helpful in developing a future model

Lessons learnt and recommendations

- The number of interactions is not necessarily an indication of the effectiveness or value of the program.
- The ability to experiment with variations of this program and tailor to school, department and campus needs was valued and supports this approach being used in the future.
- It is difficult to close a pilot when the participants have become attached to the idea.
- Possibly offer themed LIR sessions.
- Continue the approach with departments to work with what suits them best (ie. physical setup, timing, frequency), remembering that one size does not fit all.





Thank you

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