How it all began

• A survey of done by the LSU LFPC (Library Faculty Policy Committee)
  – University of Buffalo responded that they had an academic writing group that a junior librarian started to support research and writing.
  – LFPC decided to explore this idea
A supplement to the mentoring program

- LSU Libraries already has a mentoring program to support the tenure process, but...
  - Subject expertise of mentor doesn’t always coincide with protégé’s research.
  - Some protégé’s might feel they are unfairly burdening their mentors with reviewing their written work.
  - [Mention that librarians straight out of library school don’t have much experience with academic writing]
A number of college and university libraries already have a writing support program, though they often provide other tenure support in addition to review of writing.

Good suggestions for evaluation criteria:
- How the work contributes to the existing literature
- Organization, presentation of ideas, style
- Relevance to aims and scope of journal
- General scholarship quality (Giogoff)
Formation of the Writers Group

• Composed of 4 library faculty, one tenured and three tenure-track

• It was decided that the focus of this group would be on writing, since the Mentoring Program already provided a good deal of tenure-process support.
Group guidelines

• Hold writing workshops for review of submitted manuscripts on set dates, with deadlines posted on faculty listserv.
• Each manuscript will be reviewed by two group members and an invited peer (i.e. “guest”) reviewer.
• Librarians will be invited to serve as guest reviewers.
• Each workshop will have a facilitator.
• The group will review a maximum of two manuscripts per workshop.
• Each workshop will start off with a round of positive comments about the submitted manuscript.
• The group will hold occasional writing seminars on set dates to discuss general topics pertaining to writing.
Writers Group forms

- Writers' Group main web page
- Cover sheet for submissions
- Subject areas of manuscript
- Form for volunteer peer reviewers
A Learning Experience

• Even good ideas might take a while to catch on
  • (i.e. submissions less than expected)
  • Rotating roles easy to forget

• Be flexible
  • Sometime “best practices” might not be the best for your institution
Incorporate New Ideas

- Explanation of how meeting would be run
- Blind Peer Review
- Reviewing Presentations
Questions?

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