A writing support programme for Irish academic librarians

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Abstract
Purpose
The purpose of this paper is to explore the benefits of a writing support programme in developing the skills and motivation of librarians to write for academic publication.

Design/methodology/approach
A brief review of the literature is presented. The model developed and implemented by this author is outlined. Findings from a survey of participants are discussed.

Research limitations/implications
The formal programme commenced in 2007. The publication process takes time, particularly in the case of peer-reviewed journals. This is exploratory work. It will take time to build up a body of information and a community of librarians writing for publication. Initial evidence indicates there is significant value to the programme.

Practical implications
The model is transferable and could help in building skills and confidence in academic writing. In addition academic writing could serve as a bridge between lecturing and library staff, addressing issues of common concern across the Academy.

Originality/value
This is the first formal writing support programme for librarians in Irish universities. Models exist in the USA. A similar model is used in the UK and Ireland to support lecturing staff writing for publication.

Keywords
Librarians, Authorship, Serials, Skills training, Ireland, Northern Ireland

Citation

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