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Librarians on the Move: Embedded Librarians

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Linda Masselink, Anne Merkle, Rita Kohrman

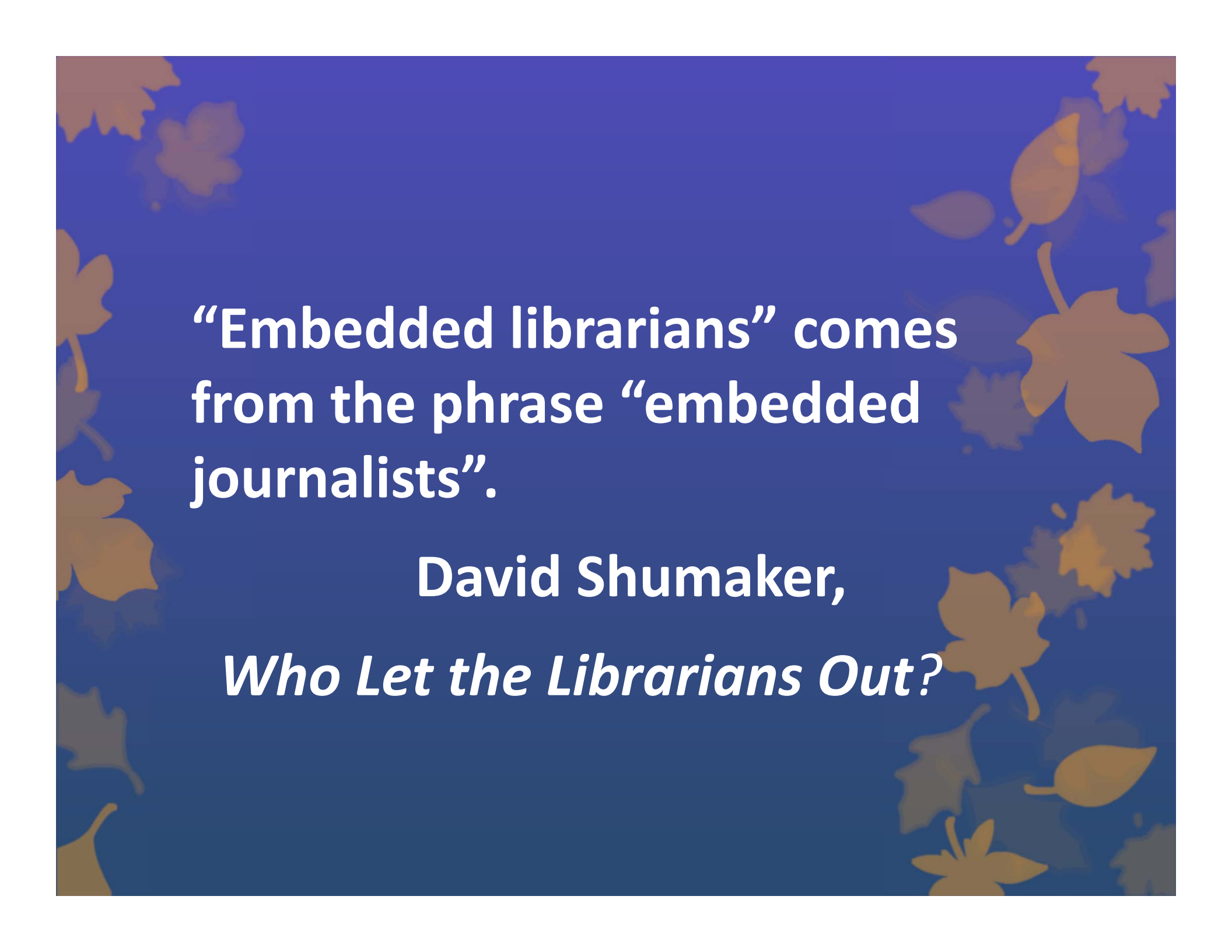
Grand Valley State University Libraries

Michigan Library Association Annual Conference

October 26, 2011



GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES



“Embedded librarians” comes from the phrase “embedded journalists”.

David Shumaker,

Who Let the Librarians Out?



A word cloud of terms related to library and educational services. The words are arranged in a roughly rectangular shape, with varying sizes and orientations. The colors are primarily blue and teal. The terms include:

- research rescue
- roving office
- library guides
- course management system
- virtual
- f2f
- virtual office
- iPhone app
- research partner
- online discussion
- community events
- programmatic-based
- project-based
- webinars
- co-teaching
- outreach
- classroom
- information literacy integration

How do we define it?

Providing library expertise
outside the library

How did we start?

- BlackBoard
- Videos online with Off-Campus Library Services
- A Dark and Stormy Night*

* Madeleine L'Engle and Snoopy

The background is a solid blue color with a pattern of brown, stylized leaves scattered across it. The leaves vary in shape and size, some resembling maple leaves and others more like simple ovals. The text is centered in the middle of the page.

Networking and Supporting

Lights! Camera! Action!

- [Telepresence](#)
- [How to be a Super Searcher](#)
- Slideshare.net/gvsulib

Real Life For Students, Faculty & Librarians

Allendale

21.21
Miles

15.40
Miles

Holland

**Grand
Rapids**

28.60
Miles

Why do we need embedded librarians?

- Develop better relationships
- Build better connections with students
- Increase visibility to faculty and students

and...

Send a Message

- Highlight impact/value of librarians
- Promote library services
- Promote library resources
- Deliver customized service

and....

Students

- Increase student comfort level
- Contribute to the mission of higher education /college experience

Best Practices for Getting Started

- Get support from administration; departments, other librarians
- Meet with Department Chairs
- Investigate best times for service

Publicize, Publicize, Publicize

- Contact faculty
- Provide your contact information
- Locate an area
- Essential: strong wireless signal

Best Practices for Success

- Introduce yourself
- Encourage faculty to direct students to you
- Try an online presence
- Be consistent
- Keep statistics
- Don't be discouraged

Impact/Challenges

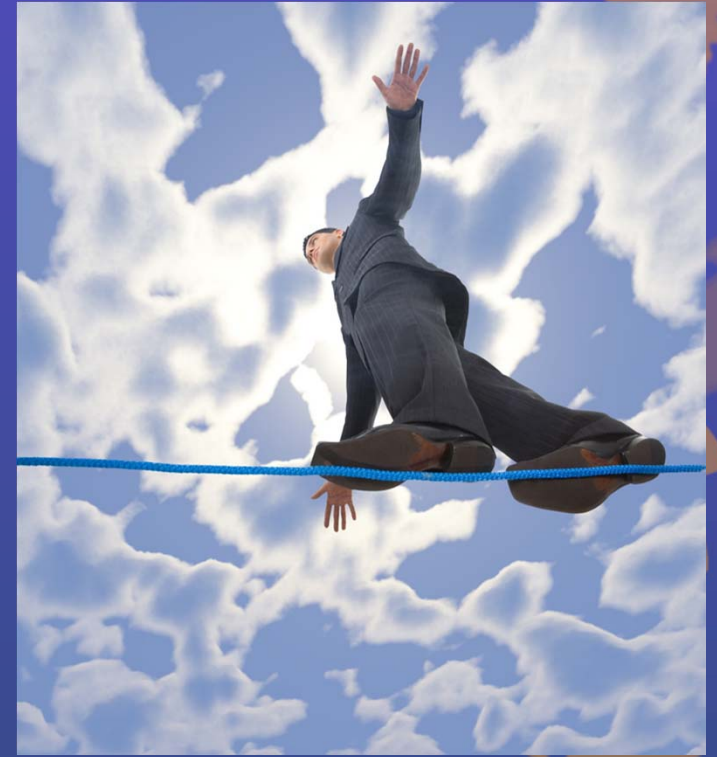
- Workload considerations
- Inconvenience
- Reporting/Assessment
- Accounting of time
- Conflict of loyalty
- Commitment to a service model

Resources that helped us


- Bartnik, L. et al (2010). We will be assimilated: Five experiences in embedded librarianship.
- Kvenlid, C., & Calkins, K. (Eds.). (2011). *Embedded librarians: Moving beyond one-shot instruction*.
- Strothmann, M., & Antgell, K. (2010). The live-in librarian: Developing library outreach to university residence halls.

[Annotated Bibliography](#)

Take the risk!



**Step outside your
comfort zone!**

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