Waiter! There’s a librarian in my online subject!!

Valerie Forbes
Humanities & Social Sciences Team
Borchardt Library
La Trobe University
Today I will talk about

- My participation in online subjects – and what’s in it for teaching staff and their students
- How the librarian, and the library in general, can also benefit
It’s all about communication

- Discussion lists
  - enable communication in even large classes and across campuses
  - allow librarian to join in the student-lecturer dialogue
- E-mail facility
Lines of communication

- Student
- Lecturer
- Librarian
Help with reading list queries

“i just wanted to ask if the readings for week 1 and 2 from Holmes on the e-reserve, and if they are how to access them as i have failed to do so. thank you.”

“Hey Val, thank you, much appreciated. Look forward to seeing you at the tute this week!”
Help with other kinds of information needs

“hi, i'm a bit confused about slang, like "ta" i know it means "thanks", but i dun think everyone in Australia know this word, rite? so do any other people (in other country) understand "ta"? and how can i know more about australian slang?”
Hi Val, I'm doing an assignment for another media subject and using the database Nexis. Am I right in thinking that it only searches newspapers 5 years back?? If so, how can I find newspapers further back?? Thanks for ur time”
Help with more general library issues:

- How can students borrow from other libraries?
- How do students access past exam papers?
Technology problems

Why don’t #!@!@#!!!#$!!!%! things work?

- Pdf files
- Recorded lectures
- Full text articles from electronic databases
- eReserve
- Library PINs – what’s that?
I get into the information loop

“I have tried to access the article for this assignment on E Reserve and it claims that the file is damaged and it will not open. Just wondering also if anyone else can download the article ok?”

“Did you try refreshing the page on the browser? Val suggested that it would often say the file was damaged and to just try again.”
Communication is a two-way street - what I have learnt from students:

- Item missing in Reserve
- Link not working on library resource page
- Book not available at La Trobe
- Full text article in E-Reserve not digitised correctly
My rewards

- "meeting" students in classes with large enrolments
- Dispelling the myths some people still have about librarians?!?!
http://www.leatherlibrarian.com/

Dedicated to Librarian Assertiveness Training!

In Your Dreams: You're a Librarian who tracks down missing books.
In Your Dreams: You're a Librarian who raps knuckles with a metal-edged ruler.
In Your Dreams: You're a Librarian who won't take guff from anyone.
In Your Dreams: You're a Librarian who takes vacation - and enjoys it.

Stop Dreaming and Become the Librarian You've Always Wanted to Be!
Ditch those cat glasses, take down that bun & release the surly vixen inside!

Attitude  Image  Compensation  Credits
Time
E-mail –
the other communication tool

- Students can ask questions without feeling silly in front of their peers
- E-mail in WebCT is focused on a particular subject
Introduction to WebCT: a WebCT subject for teaching staff

- Web page template – prompting ideas for linking resources
- Advice to teaching staff – what types of resources can be linked, identifying useful online resources, accessing resources off campus
The bottom line

Putting in my 2 cents’ worth >>>>

– Adds value to online content
– Saves teaching staff time
– Helps students when searching for information, accessing resources
– Establishes a rewarding line of communication between teaching staff, students and librarian

A win-win-win-win situation
Valerie Forbes
Humanities & Social Sciences Team
Borchardt Library
La Trobe University
From the Librarian Avengers site:
Thwart not the librarian!

http://www.librarianavengers.org/worship.html