TROUBLE GETTING ONBOARD?
THE EXPERIENCES OF FIRST-TIME SUBJECT-SPECIFIC LIBRARIANS

PALA Annual Conference
October 18, 2017
Green Tree, PA

Your participation is important to us! Please go to Pollev.com/ciddecs OR text CIDDECS to 22333 to join our Poll Everywhere session.

http://tinyurl.com/palaonboarding
WHY THIS PANEL EXISTS

• Pitt MLIS, ’16
• Started liaison/subject specialist jobs during the past year
• We noticed some common experiences
• To discuss common issues, explore possible solutions

http://tinyurl.com/palaonboarding
INTRODUCTIONS

• Bryan McGeary – Subject Librarian for the Humanities, Ohio University
• Kiana Jones – Visiting Fine Arts Librarian, University of Pittsburgh
• Matthew Jones - Phenomenology Librarian, Duquesne University
• Jacob Brintzenhof – Business Research Librarian, University of Pennsylvania
• Rebekah Miller – STEM Librarian, Duquesne University
• Alice Kalinowski – Liaison Librarian for Business, University of Pittsburgh

http://tinyurl.com/palaonboarding
YOUR EXPERIENCES

• Share with those around you what you can remember from your onboarding experiences.
• Did you have a formal onboarding process? What did it include?
• Did it meet your needs or expectations?

http://tinyurl.com/palaonboarding
“Uncertainty. No job as it is presented to an applicant is really what it seems to be.”

“To understand that they will need to undergo a continuous learning process”

“Independence”

“Basic productivity skills…teaching experience”

“Critical thinking...if paired with ownership and responsibility”

“Advanced search techniques...real experience in a library”
SUPERVISOR RECOMMENDATIONS

“Patience and persistence...good observational skills”

“Curiosity and initiative”

“Tactfulness... respectfulness... just being kind and a nice person”

“Collaborative spirit... general congeniality”

“Passion and commitment to the profession. Mature judgement... and ability to problem solve”

“Work well with others... creativity; energy; confidence; sense of humor”


