

# Faculty Interview

## Introduction

1. I understand that you work in the field of... What is your current project?  
[Limit this discussion to five minutes.]
2. Do you use books and articles in your research? What else do you use?  
[Prompt for original manuscripts, archival materials, museum objects]

## Recent Search Pt. 1

1. What is the last article or book or other resource you used for this project?
2. Can you show me this item? (Note physical or virtual, brief description, how stored, markup)
3. How did you know this item existed? How did you find out about it?  
(Prompt for personal contact, catalog, OPAC, or database, other)
4. How did you obtain it? (Prompt for librarian, ILL or other help, technology used)
5. How did you use it? (Prompt: Did you read it in full/scan/cull, etc.?)
6. Have you shared this resource with anyone else? (Prompt for who and how;  
prompt: if no, hypothetically, how would share it?)

## Current Searches

1. Are you currently looking for any resources? What are you looking for? How do you know about it? (Prompt: if answer is no on specific project, then follow up on subject area in general.)
2. Would you be willing to set to work on getting this item as I watch and videotape you? (Narrate what the person is doing/prompt the person to narrate)

## Recent Search Pt. 2

1. What was the previous article or book or other resource you used for this project? (explanation: the last-but one; the one before the last one)
2. Can you show me this item? (Note physical or virtual, brief description, how stored, markup)
3. How did you know this item existed? How did you find out about it?  
(Prompt for personal contact, catalog, OPAC, or database, other)

4. How did you obtain it? (Prompt for librarian, ILL or other help, technology used)
5. How did you use it?
6. Have you shared this resource with anyone else? (Prompt for who and how)
7. What part of this process do you feel worked really well? What was your least favorite part of the process?

### **Keeping current**

1. Do you receive Table of Contents alerts? If so, what do you do the last time you received one? (follow-up How do you receive these?)
2. Do you go to the print periodicals area and browse through journals? If so, when did you do this last? What journals did you browse?
3. How do you keep up in your field? (Prompt for conferences, journals, online resources, online networking, personal contacts, web searching, TOC alerts)

### **Searching for known items**

1. Try to remember the last time you had a particular item in mind – a particular book or article – that you needed. What was that particular item? How did you get it? (Prompt for tools or people that helped, physical or digital resource)

### **Searching for unknown items**

1. [Direct the person to the OPAC search box] What do you call this? When you type something into this box, what are you searching through? When was the last time you searched the [use their word] using keywords?
2. Do you use anything like EBSCO, ProQuest, WilsonWeb, JSTOR, Web of Science? What do you call those things? Which [use their word] did you use last? Can you show me? How did you use this [use their word] the last time? Have you ever typed keywords into the search field?
3. What do you do when you get stuck?

### **Searching for Primary Sources and data**

1. In your current research what primary sources have been the most use to you?
2. How did you discover these primary sources (online catalog, web, word of mouth, footnotes, librarian)?
3. Are there tools or resources that you found particularly valuable in the

discovery process? What made them so valuable? (the "discovery process" sounded jargon-y to us; use something else, e.g. "when you are looking for primary sources and data?")

4. How have you used primary sources in this project: in person or using a digital or microfilm surrogate? (again, jargon-y; use "version")
5. [If they have used surrogates:] Do you have concerns about using digital or microfilm surrogates?
6. Have you ever used an archive solely in digital format? If so, how would you compare that to using a physical archive? Was it a satisfactory replacement?

### **Using resources in teaching**

7. How do you use library resources in your courses?
8. Do you use the course management system? If so, how do you use library resources in connection with the course management system? (Prompt: Bb; library reserves)
9. If you could do anything to change or improve the course management system, what would you do?

### **Old technologies**

1. Did you ever use the card catalog or character-based (telnet) catalog? [If no, go to next question.] Do you miss the card catalog/telnet? If yes, what do you miss about it? Do you think that the online catalog is better in any way? If so, how? (replace "telnet" with "older catalog version")
2. Did you ever use paper indices? [If no, go to next section.] Do you miss the paper indices, such as the old guides to periodical literature? What do you miss about them? Do you think that databases are better in any way? If so, how?

### **Librarians**

1. When is the last time you actually talked to a librarian? What happened? (replace "librarian" with "library staff member"; replace What happened with "What about?")

### **Magic Wand**

1. If I gave you a magic wand to help you in your current research project, what would you do with it? [Prompt, if necessary, by saying, "Would you just wave it and your book or article would be done?"]

# Grad Student Interview

## Introduction

1. I understand that are a graduate student in the field of... and that you do research. What is your current project? [Limit this discussion to five minutes.] **What stage are you at? Are you teaching?**
2. Do you use books and articles in your research? What else do you use? [Prompt for original manuscripts, archival materials, museum objects]

## Recent Search Pt. 1

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2. Can you show me this item? (Note physical or virtual, brief description, how stored, markup)
3. How did you know this item existed? How did you find out about it? (Prompt for personal contact, catalog, OPAC, or database, other)
4. How did you obtain it? (Prompt for librarian, ILL or other help, technology used)
5. How did you use it? **(Prompt: Did you read it in full/scan/cull, etc.?)**
6. Have you shared this resource with anyone else? (Prompt for who and how; **prompt: if no, hypothetically, how would share it?**)

## Current Searches

1. Are you currently looking for any resources? What are you looking for? How do you know about it? **(Prompt: if answer is no on specific project, then follow up on subject area in general.)**
2. Would you be willing to set to work on getting this item as I watch and videotape you? (Narrate what the person is doing/prompt the person to narrate)

## Recent Search Pt. 2

1. What was the previous article or book or other resource you used for this project? **(explanation: the last-but one; the one before the last one)**
2. Can you show me this item? (Note physical or virtual, brief description, how stored, markup)

3. How did you know this item existed? How did you find out about it? (Prompt for personal contact, catalog, OPAC, or database, other)
4. How did you obtain it? (Prompt for librarian, ILL or other help, technology used)
5. How did you use it?
6. Have you shared this resource with anyone else? (Prompt for who and how)
7. What part of this process do you feel worked really well? What was your least favorite part of the process?

### **Keeping current**

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3. What do you do when you get stuck?

### **Searching for Primary Sources and data**

1. In your current research what primary sources have been the most use to you?

2. How did you discover these primary sources (online catalog, web, word of mouth, footnotes, librarian)?
3. Are there tools or resources that you found particularly valuable in the discovery process? What made them so valuable? (the "discovery process" sounded jargon-y to us; use something else, e.g. "when you are looking for primary sources and data?")
4. How have you used primary sources in this project: in person or using a digital or microfilm surrogate? (again, jargon-y; use "version")
5. [If they have used surrogates:] Do you have concerns about using digital or microfilm surrogates?
6. Have you ever used an archive solely in digital format? If so, how would you compare that to using a physical archive? Was it a satisfactory replacement?

### Add section on teaching if they are teaching

#### Using resources in teaching

10. How do you use library resources in your courses?
11. Do you use the course management system? If so, how do you use library resources in connection with the course management system? (Prompt: Bb; library reserves)
12. If you could do anything to change or improve the course management system, what would you do?

#### Old technologies

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#### Librarians

1. When is the last time you actually talked to a librarian? What happened? (replace "librarian" with "library staff member"; replace "What happened?" with "What about?")
- 2.

## **Magic Wand**

1. If I gave you a magic wand to help you in your current research project, what would you do with it? [Prompt, if necessary, by saying, “Would you just wave it and your book or article would be done?”]

