

## Exercise 1: Topic Brainstorm

Things to consider:

- What challenges is my library facing?
- What challenges am I facing in my job?
- Is there a dearth of existing data on something I'm worrying about or dealing with?
- Have I read a great article recently and want to build on its findings?
- What new trend or idea am I excited about?
- Do I have a skill from a previous job/career which librarians might be able to adapt?
- Have I completed a project or tried a strategy which I'm proud of?
- Have I tried something which failed, and I'd like to assess why it didn't work so others don't make the same mistake?

Possible topics (remember to run the "so what" test):

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Of those possible topics, which would you like to use today? Phrase your answer as a research question.

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## Exercise 2: Allies

Possible co-authors (would an ally from a different library or department be useful?):

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Possible editors:

Content/topic expert: \_\_\_\_\_

Content/topic newbie: \_\_\_\_\_

Grammar/structure expert: \_\_\_\_\_

## Exercise 3: Research Options

Pick a topic and consider how it might be realized as scholarship in each of the Boyer categories. If it won't fit into one, don't worry about contorting it. Just brainstorm any options which fit well.

- **Scholarship of Discovery** (traditional empirical research survey, focus group, case study, experiment, ethnography) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- **Scholarship of Integration** (synthesis of ideas from other disciplines or areas, synthesis of ideas across time) \_\_\_\_\_

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- **Scholarship of Application** (how can the discoveries of others be applied to solve your question)

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- **Scholarship of Teaching** (exploration of class, learning, or training activities)

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### **Exercise 4: Designing Your Research**

- What information would you need to help you answer your research question?
  - Do you have existing data to use? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Will you need to gather new data/information/will more new data help?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- If you do need to collect new data...
  - Which information collection mode will best meet the information need and your abilities? Why?
    - Survey: \_\_\_\_\_
    - Interviews: \_\_\_\_\_
    - Focus groups: \_\_\_\_\_
    - Observation study: \_\_\_\_\_
  - If you want to embark on an empirical study, I highly recommend John Cresswell's *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*.

### **Exercise 5: Finding a Publication Venue**

- Search Ulrich's or the Directory of Open Access Publications for possible publication venues.
- Points to consider:
  - What is the stated scope of the journal?
  - Do they request a certain type of research?
  - Do they offer guidance from an editor or mentor?
  - Check Ulrich's or SHERPA/RoMEO for author rights.
  - Which metrics concern you? Here are a few to consider as you pick your top candidates.
    - Time to publication
    - Geographic reach and level of readership
    - Impact factor/other impact metric

Options:

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