



Research Opportunity:

PIL seeks an institutional host for their new visiting researcher program

Have you ever wished that you had a "research therapist" available to you and your colleagues as you work on scholarly research?

Whether you are a beginner or an old pro, wouldn't it be useful to have an expert information literacy researcher -- someone who is not one of your campus colleagues -- that you could turn to for guidance about study design, research methods, and publishing your results?

During the upcoming academic year (2017/2018), [Project Information Literacy](#) (PIL) is offering a unique professional development opportunity to the academic library community.

[Dr. Alison J. Head](#), PIL's founder and director, is seeking ONE academic library (community college or four-year institution) in the U.S. where she will be a visiting research scholar. In this role, Alison will mentor researchers on their scholarly research projects, both large and small, throughout the academic year.

The following hybrid (virtual and in-person) mentoring services will be provided to your academic library:

(1) 15 to 20 "virtual," one-on-one research consultations to individual information literacy researchers (via GHangout) at your institution throughout the academic year.

(2) Two research methods webinars available for your library staff that are suited for beginning to expert researchers. The first webinar would provide an introduction to how PIL works, and the second would present a case study of a PIL study, selected by librarians based on their interests.

(3) One (in-person) campus wide keynote on what we have learned from students about their information seeking practices and research strategies, which draws on PIL's research findings from nine separate studies.

Cost/fees

For the entire year, PIL, a registered 501(c)(3), will charge your library a one time fee of \$5,000, plus Alison Head's travel costs for a 3 - 4 day visit to campus to provide in-person research consultations and to give a keynote.

Interested?

If you have the genuine support of your colleagues, and the support and budgetary approval of your library dean, and would like to be considered as the "host site" for next year's program with PIL's Alison Head, please send an email to alison@projectinfolit.org by **July 7, 2017**.

In your email, be sure to tell a little about your library, the research interests and needs you and your colleagues have (and hope to fill), and what you, your colleagues -- and your dean -- are hoping to get from this unique PIL program in professional development.

The final selection for a library site (assuming there's an interest in this idea!) will occur shortly after July 7.

How did this idea occur?

This year (2016/17), Alison Head has been running a pilot program for the visiting research scholar between [PIL and the University of Nebraska Library](#) (UNL). The program's sole purpose has been for PIL to provide a year of research consultations so that librarians may become more qualified and improved information literacy researchers.

The coaching Alison has provided has been predominately virtual. But there was also an in-person visit to UNL for a week where Alison gave a campus wide keynote, participated in a panel on post-truth, and also provided one-on-one on site consultations.

Individual research consultations with UNL library staff and faculty have been on an array of topics, such as working with geographically dispersed research teams, selecting where to publish research results, choosing the best methodology for collecting qualitative data, and creating personas for designing user-centered library portals.

At UNL, the response to this pilot has been overwhelmingly positive -- a total of 55 people from UNL have participated in a webinar and/or individual research consultation. PIL has provided research best practices, coaching, and consultation to UNL library faculty (as well as UNL faculty from all disciplines) who are interested in conducting studies and projects of their own on students' information seeking practices.

Questions? Contact Alison Head at alison@projectinfolit.org

Posted: June 6, 2017; deadline for applications is July 7, 2017