

From the Soviet Union to Science and Engineering

Jenny Brine,
Lancaster University Library





Current post at Lancaster



- Health and Medicine (2006-)
 - CETAD
- Computing and Communications (2007-)
- Mathematics and Statistics (2007-)
- Physics (2011-)
- Engineering (2011-)
- Lancaster Environment Centre (Environment, Geography, Biology) 2011-
- Chemistry (reintroducing from August 2012)

CREES, Birmingham



- Centre for Russian & East European Studies, University of Birmingham, 1972-1986
 - Essential language and subject knowledge
 - Difficulty of finding data
 - Worked closely with research staff
 - Attitudes to sharing
 - Encouraged to do a PhD myself
 - Pretty specialised

- Part-time and temporary member of staff (1991-1995)
 - Transferable skills
- Teaching IL skills
 - Included Pharmacy, Science
- Information projects supervision
 - Wide range of subjects
- Encouraged to do a tertiary-level teaching qualification
- *European Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies*
(UK editor from 1990 volume)

Hospital Librarian



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- Royal Lancaster Infirmary 1998-1999
 - Meant to be for just a few weeks...

Lancaster University Library



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- Interlending and Document Supply 2001-2006
 - Good picture of University's research
 - Lot of contact with individual staff and students
 - Refer recent books for possible purchase

Subject Librarian, Health and Medicine



- From 2006
- New medical school, initially following Liverpool curriculum
- First intake September 2006
- Plan to fly solo from September 2013
- Also cover Biomedicine and Life Science, Health Research, Clinical Psychology, CETAD
- All of Faculty of Science and Technology apart from Psychology

Learning about new subjects



- Informal and work-related resources
 - Informal
 - Family
 - Formal
 - Colleagues
 - Reading
 - Web resources
 - Courses

Medicine in the family...



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- Husband – works in NHS, MD
 - Understanding of NHS
 - Medical journals and textbooks at home

Science Technology and Engineering in the family...



- Son 1 – Mathematics – Doctoral student in systems biology – modelling heart processes
- Son 2 – Physics – Doctoral student – superconductors
- New Scientist subscription at home

Support from science and technology librarian colleagues



- Mailing lists
 - USTLG
 - Medical
- Textbooks and manuals
 - A number of books about health librarianship
 - Any books about being a science and technology librarian?
- Journal articles
- Courses and conferences
 - USTLG
 - Health & Medicine

Learning about new subjects



- Study skills books for new subjects –a flavour of the work the students undertake – skills they need, library support
- Talk to academic colleagues
 - Invites to meetings?
 - Look round the department, see the laboratories, what do they actually do?

Suggestions for USTLG



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- Area on website for reports and articles about being a science and technology librarian
 - Links to useful websites, perhaps equivalent groups in other countries
 - Lists of recommended study skills books
 - Offer mentoring for new S&T subject librarians

Any questions or comments?

