Not all ‘chalk and talk’: how the library supports Maths students in preparation for their placement year
Students at Bath

- 54% male, 46% female
- Undergraduate: 11,315
  Postgraduate: 4,255
- 30% of students from outside of UK
- Math’s department have 350+ new first year intake per year
Employability at Bath

• 86% of our employed UK full-time first degree graduates move into top-level jobs, compared to 71% of employed graduates nationally

• Nearly two-thirds of our undergraduates choose a placement or study year abroad

• Our graduates have a mean salary of £26,000, which is £4,500 more than the equivalent for all higher education providers in the UK

• 300 to 400 employers visit the University every year
Inherited library support for Maths

- Central induction
- Final year project support
- Postgraduate Skills – combined with Computer Science
What changed

• Shorter central induction
  • Trialled subject specific induction (Sept 2013)
• Postgraduate Research expressed lack of skills in placement year
• Attended “Company Information” workshop

Online support

- Employability skills
- Created a Moodle (VLE) module for Maths first year students
- Directors of Studies put me in touch with Placements Officer
Placement talks

- May 2014: Met placements officer and pitched idea.
- Sept 2014: Delivered introduction to management databases to 2nd year placement students
- June 2015: Summer Pilot of online course for first year placement students
Careers VLE module

- Careers service wanted to include activities on the management databases

- Feedback for pilot (summer 2015) was that the group hadn’t had any library skills training
Challenges (or not!)

- Most of the planning and hard work by Placement Officer and Careers
- Right time, right place
- Who you talk to
- Hook words
Future

- Summer 2017 rolling out to all Faculty of Science students
- Upscaling the Maths project teaching
- Promotion of Bath Harvard BibTeX style files
Discussion?

Does anyone here offer similar support for placement students? Or make use of subject specific databases for something other than coursework?

Does anyone have any thoughts about improving what I currently offer?

Upscaling the Maths project teaching from 8 students to 80. Any thoughts on delivery or what to include?
Questions

Emma Stuart Edwards
@embrarian
e.stuartedwards@bath.ac.uk