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An Interview with Lone T. Damasco on Becoming a Librarian- Researcher

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IRDL Online Research Conference
November 18, 2024

An Interview with Ione T. Damasco on Becoming a Librarian-Researcher
Interviewer: Jamillah R. Gabriel

The purpose of this session is to demonstrate the mechanics of conducting an interview using an interview guide. The conference participants will be given a copy of the guide to use as a template for their own future interviews.

The topic to be discussed is a consistent one for IRDL, on identifying what supports are needed for novice librarian-researchers to be successful. This interview gives us the opportunity to see further along the trajectory, to hear about the path of an *expert* librarian-researcher. To be explored in the interview are factors falling into three categories: individual attributes; peers and community; and institutional structures and supports (Hoffmann et al., 2017).

This interview guide has been given to the interviewee ahead of the session, so they have time to consider the answers to their questions.

Interview questions:

Your research path

1. Thank you for your time today, to discuss with us your path to becoming a librarian-researcher. What were your motivations to conduct research early in your career?
Follow-up: Have those motivations changed over time? If so, how?
2. As you continued along your path, what sustained your interest in conducting research?
 - a. What support have you received from your library for your research?
 - b. Which supports have had the most impact on your research?
 - c. Were you required or expected to conduct research?
 - d. What influence have mentors or collaborators had on your research?
3. How do your research interests intersect with your values?
4. What habits or practices have contributed to your research productivity?

Your methodological choices

5. We would like to now turn to talk about the methods you use in your research. Could you describe how your research methods have evolved over time?
 - a. You described your use of [Intergroup Dialogue in a book chapter](#). Could you tell us more about how you came to use this method?
6. What advice would you give librarians who are trying to select a methodology for their research?

Your advice for future researchers

7. Imagine that there is a library worker watching today who may be at the very beginning of their own research career. Can you share some advice on how they should be thinking of their place in the research tradition in librarianship, and if there are specific actions they should be taking to set themselves up for success?

We would like to open the session now to questions that the audience may have for you...

Damasco, I.T. (2019). Creating Meaningful Engagement in Academic Libraries Using Principles of Intergroup Dialogue. In A.P. Baer, R. Schroeder, & E.S. Cahoy (Eds.), *Libraries Promoting Reflective Dialogue in a Time of Political Polarization* (pp. 13-31). Association of College and Research Libraries.

Hoffmann, K., Berg, S. & Koufogiannakis, D. (2017). Understanding Factors that Encourage Research Productivity in Academic Librarians. *Evidence Based Library and Information Practice*, 12(4), 102-128. <https://dx.doi.org/10.18438/B8G66F>