If we share ideas and combine our experiences, what advancements can we achieve?

We can make a good idea greater—and probably live to see it happen! If we share ideas and combine our experiences, what advancements can we achieve? What new possibilities can we envision?

By getting past our institutional and departmental silos, we’ve ventured into a realm where we could (and did) share openly, without fear, expecting only mutual respect and support. Our experience led us to innovations within the team and inspired those involved tangentially to take bold steps in exciting directions that will continue to propel their growth as well as ours.

First, there are lots of materials, services, tools that librarians have and/or know about that we are blissfully ignorant of that could make our lives and those of our students much easier. Second, if we don’t let the students know what materials, services and tools we have available, they won’t even know to ask for help. Finally, our students, if they have a positive experience with research aided by librarians, they may be more likely to continue using research and will hopefully encourage their students and their colleagues to do the same.

If we focus on distance learning, what directions can we set?

We can move closer to self-directed goals. Our students have good ideas that can make an immediate difference in their worlds with our support.

Distance learning is becoming the new standard, breaking barriers and generating innovations at a startling pace. By immersing ourselves in these new technologies, we can set a path toward improving all of higher education, creating richer learning environments for a new generation.

There is a much higher likelihood that I will use the library, and that my students will use the library if they are taught or that they were less than before they knew it. Why shouldn’t everyone have access to our good ideas? Why shouldn’t we have access to shared knowledge, of the sum being greater than the parts, of the whole learning experience, of how to apply knowledge and the ways of learning to our whole lives, instead of just to a particular subject?

If we draw on a woman’s way of knowing, what difference will it make?

We can contribute in ways that men cannot simply due to our different natures. That will create new opportunities within a more balanced realm that will naturally be more rewarding for many members of our society.

If we draw upon a woman’s way of knowing, what differences can we make? How inclusive can we be? How will we ever know? What freedom can we find? What directions can we set? What will the future hold?

We can make a difference by allowing someone to grow and learn without feeling taught or that they were less than before they knew it.

It will make the difference of leading with a gentle hand, of allowing someone to grow and learn without feeling taught or that they were less than before they knew it.

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Positive interdependence! We’re all in this together. We can build together or tear down together—to or do both as needed.

Inclusiveness means that we embrace each other’s differences and accept differences as normal. There are a million good ideas in the world, why shouldn’t we have access to them all? Why shouldn’t everyone have access to our good ideas?

If we collaborate, what issues can we promote?

We can promote the issues that matter to us. Just trying to solve a problem sometimes solves it! Every little action starts a chain reaction that might just end in total satisfaction.

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If we reach out, how inclusive can we be?

We can ride our dreams ‘to the moon and beyond’—and experience the gamut of life in between. Together, I think we can find a way to reach every single soul that’s close enough to touch.

If we reach out, we should reach in every direction, looking for a hand up from the leaders who preceded us, reaching out to our contemporaries to strengthen our feeling, reaching back to the next generation of librarians, faculty and course developers both to help them learn from where we’ve been, and to feed the inspiration that will keep us going.

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If we don’t try something, how will we ever know?

We can’t fight every battle that needs to be fought; but, we can choose our battles wisely enough to win more than we might expect. Finding out what doesn’t work can be as important as figuring out what does work!

Exactly! Trying and failing isn’t scary. It’s failing because we didn’t try that’s scary. ‘Feel the fear and do it anyway!’