

Realistic Self-Assessment Tool on Best Practices For Law Librarians Serving Self-Represented Litigants

This is a confidential self-assessment tool that you will fill out on your own. The purpose is to determine those activities that you feel comfortable performing at this time, those activities for which you may wish to seek training, mentoring, or peer support, and those activities that you currently believe you will not wish to engage. For those last activities, you may wish to assess whether someone else within your library can perform the role or you need to hire someone who can or you can rely on librarians from other libraries to fill that need.

Librarians are well versed through experience at the reference desk in making information understandable to self-represented litigants; i.e., they have an almost innate understanding of usability factors. Librarians should recognize their own skill sets and emphasize them when working with partners.

Do you feel you have the education and experience or training that makes you feel sufficiently prepared to:

- Write research guides or checklists?
- Compile or create forms?
- Develop website materials?
- Create or teach classes on legal research topics?
- Create or teach classes on procedural law topics?
- Handle chat room reference questions?

What time and management factors would affect work on these best practices in your own library?

How willing are you to pursue any of the above best practices?

What concerns do you have about any of the above best practices, e.g., public speaking, UPL, computer literacy?

Your answers to these questions should not be revealed, except as you are willing during the brainstorming session. Please consider how your self-assessments can change over time, especially with training or peer influence.