

Sharon the Scholar



I have to stay current on my field and do the research work —get the grant money, do the work, publish, etc. Those are the priorities at a research institution.

Key Facts

- **Expert knowledge in her research area**
- **Ongoing, in-depth projects using primary sources**
- **Long term user who has already learned existing systems**

Sharon is a 37 year old Assistant Professor in the Anthropology department.

As a tenure-track faculty member, she needs to prove her ability to conduct innovative research. So far she's published several articles in smaller journals and one in a major journal, and is also working on a book to come out next year.

Sharon studies Chinese culture and the expression of gender through art, and her current research focuses on the contemporary art world in Beijing. For some projects, she travels to China to conduct in-person interviews and work with primary sources that are only available locally.

Sharon knows all of the important authors, journals and conferences in her field. To be successful, she needs comprehensive access to everything relating to her research. She subscribes to email alerts for major journals such as the Journal of Visual Culture. She also reads the New York Times regularly and enjoys browsing around sites like Amazon to find new books that are coming out in related areas, that she might not have otherwise heard about. She often emails her department's library liaison to request a book purchase.

When she's not traveling, Sharon usually works from her office and only comes to the library to pick up materials.

She also teaches and develops the curriculum for her classes. She often puts books and films on reserve for students to use. Sharon usually creates a course website for her classes and includes links to different websites and some library pages for students to use on their assignments.

Sharon doesn't have much time to spend on learning about library systems or copyright rules. She does, however, consider the Libraries critical to her professional success, both to support her own research and to help her attract high quality graduate students.

What she needs to do

- Keep current on new work in the field
- Share materials with students and colleagues

Pain points

- Keeping track of research materials
- Taking time to learn new systems when library resources change

How She Uses the Libraries Website

- Searches the catalog for books she's heard about at conferences or from colleagues
- Subscribes to journal updates to receive alerts when new articles are published
- Maintains an active interlibrary loan account and requests books and articles through it when UW does not own a copy
- Places books and films on reserve for students to access

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