



Editorial

Facing My Fears

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I'm scared. I'm nervous. In a few short weeks the contractors and electricians will take over my library for several months. They will drill huge gouges in the concrete floor, hammer, saw, scrape, move, wire, etc. No doubt they may have to be asked to keep their voices down once or twice. Half of the print journal collection will be relocated to accommodate a new teaching lab that will also double as an information commons. The planning has been going on for many months. We have consulted with other libraries, reviewed the literature, identified the needs of our various user groups, measured space, tested technical possibilities, and met with architects and engineers. Up until now the new lab was an organic idea on paper, discussed over coffee and in meetings. That's fairly easy to deal with.

But just around the corner it becomes a reality and I'm a bag of nerves. Have we made the right decisions? Will it address all our needs? Is there anything I forgot to consider? What if our users don't like it? What if it is a complete failure?! Theoretically, it should be ok. I've followed the right steps and worked with a creative, talented and dedicated team. This is different from trying out a new instructional technique or reorganizing the information desk. This is big. I talk the evidence based talk regularly, but now I am walking the walk in a bigger way than I had ever imagined.

Change can be frightening. Moving out of comfort zones is not easy. Having said that, the challenge can be invigorating and the change, refreshing.

I find myself welcoming the change as much as I dread it. I'll face my fears and see it through to the implementation and evaluations and beyond. And hey, no matter what the outcome, it should make for a good paper. If anyone else out there is going through a similar process, I'd be interested in comparing notes.

I invite you to try something new this year in your work environment or in your professional activities. Implement a new service; change a process; publish a paper; present at a conference; teach a

new workshop. Find out what should work through research and investigation, and go for it. Yes, it may cause anxiety and you may have to spend time convincing others to accept change, but it beats just thinking about it.

Now, if I could just crawl under a reference book until the lab is built I'll be all set. Call me when it's done.