



# **Project Management SIG: Developing a Culture of PM at UM**

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# **The background**

# Special Projects Librarians (SPLs)



# Common job responsibilities



- Project Management
- Documentation
- Assessment
- Liaisons

# We have mad skillz.



- Effective communicators
- Relationship builders
- Highly organized
- Attention to detail
- PM skills (lite)

# **The motivation**

# Connect isolated PMs



# Grow a culture of PM





**The solution (maybe?)**

# PM SIG manifesto

*"Project Management (PM) is a task spread across various units of the Library. We feel there is a demonstrated need for the sharing of PM expertise and propose the creation of a Project Management Special Interest Group (SIG). This Project Management SIG will provide an opportunity for individuals from across the library to informally meet and discuss PM topics of interest. We envision these meetings to be a combination of informal brown bags and invited speakers."*

# Programming: Discussions

- Running meetings effectively
- Using Google Sites/Gmail for PM, collaboration, and documentation
- PM for the powerless

# Programming: Speakers



- Effectively communicating data
- Workflow analysis
- PM basics/workflow:
  - scoping
  - agile project planning
  - effective communication
  - assessment and review
- Fail-proofing projects

# Programming: Events



- PM Extravaganza
- Tool Duel
- Upcoming: PM your Holidays
- Upcoming: Tour

**Success (maybe?)**

# Pause and Assess

*“It's great. MORE MORE MORE!”*

*“I have learned a great deal from these meetings. Please continue!”*

*“The PM SIG sets the bar pretty high for other library SIGS.”*

*“it's been wonderful, if only to be around other people who have similar issues/challenges and are all working toward effective solutions. “*

*“This is a great community!”*

# Other good signs

- Email group: 80+ members
- Attendance up & down management ladder
- External audience for events
- Interest from School of Information
- A desire for a library-wide PM toolkit
- Inclusion of PM in library/unit goals



**Try this at home.**

# Some advice.

- Identify a "coalition of the enthusiastic"
- Get top-level support
- More than one organizer
- Learn from your peers
- Seek frequent feedback

# Thank you.

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