What exactly do you do here, anyway?

Advocating for technical services in our libraries

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Overview

• Why?

• How?
Why advocate?

- To counteract misconceptions
- To provide learning opportunities
- To demonstrate value
Technical services:
A brief history of misconceptions and half-truths

Books, books, books!
Nothing but books!

The card catalog

Staff members hidden away in the back room

Fear of change

CHANCE
Change? We do this all the time!

- Integrated library systems
- Other electronic systems
- Cataloging standards and schemes
- Material types
The balancing act

Making things work

Living with change
Why advocate?

• To counteract misconceptions
• To provide learning opportunities
• To demonstrate value
Provide learning opportunities

- Sharing skills
- Introducing others to what we can do
Demonstrate value

- Track statistics
- Make connections to the bigger picture
- Play well with others
How?

• Outreach
• Open-mindedness and flexibility
• Collaboration
• Speaking up
Outreach

• Teaching
• Mentoring
• Sharing
Open-mindedness and flexibility

“Technical services” as an evolving concept
Collaboration

- Seek out opportunities to work with other groups.
- Cultivate a culture of collaboration
Speak up

“What exactly do you do here, anyway?”

We need to let others know what we can do!
In conclusion

Technical services skills are valuable and should be valued. We need to make sure others feel the same way!
Any questions?

It's QUESTION TIME!!