

Summer 8-11-2023

Academic Librarianship Reflection: Reflective Practice

Rebecca Rose

University of North Georgia

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln>



Part of the [Information Literacy Commons](#), [Scholarly Communication Commons](#), and the [Scholarly Publishing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Rose, Rebecca (2023) "Academic Librarianship Reflection: Reflective Practice," *The Southeastern Librarian*: Vol. 71: Iss. 2, Article 3.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln/vol71/iss2/3>

This Editorial is brought to you for free and open access by the Active Journals at DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Southeastern Librarian by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu.

Academic Librarianship Reflection: Reflective Practice

*by Rebecca Rose, Professor/Assistant Dean of Libraries, University of North Georgia
Chair, University & Colleges Libraries Section*

For academic librarians, reflective practice promotes professional growth and builds competencies. Plan for intentional and deliberate reflection to occur on a regular basis, particularly after completing a project, teaching a class, or leading a meeting or event. Deep reflection requires an investment of time to contemplate questions, interpretation, analysis, and/or assessment. Regularly considering any or all outcomes, accomplishments, communications, and reactions normalizes this activity as part of your job performance. Mindfulness activities can contribute to developing a reflective practice. It sharpens mental clarity by paying close attention to your surroundings and interactions, while avoiding just going through the motions with little regard to your impact on others.

Getting started on developing a reflective practice can be accomplished in many ways. Writing or journaling is one way, but thinking deeply and asking yourself some questions can also achieve serious reflection. Sometimes using prompts can ease you into reflection. For example, after teaching a class or a series of classes plan to spend time thinking about the session(s). Did you cover all the material you planned to teach? Did students seem engaged and ask questions? Did students follow you back to the library to ask more in-depth or follow-up questions? What could have been done differently? Could you change your presentation to be more interactive/inclusive/challenging/funny/ dynamic/thought provoking? Did the instructor express satisfaction with your session or make any comments during or after?

After leading or participating in a project or event, write a report that documents the experience and is useful for others who might want to learn from the experience. Were the project goals met? What problems did you encounter and how did you deal with them? Were there other ways that you might have tried to resolve the issue(s)? Could the lines of communication have been improved and how could that happen? What benefits to the students/library/university did the project accomplish? Were there other ways the event could have been promoted?

After leading a meeting, you might want to reflect on whether the information was received as hoped. Did everyone get a chance to provide feedback or contribute? Were future goals or action items noted and documented? Was the purpose of the meeting understood by all who participated? How can buy in and/or communication improve for the next meeting? Was the meeting setting adequate or could it have been improved? Did the meeting last appropriately or was it too long? If too long, could steps be taken to shorten the next meeting? Did the meeting dwell too long on any topic unnecessarily? Was there an agenda for others to read before the meeting?

Each circumstance can generate a unique set of reflective prompts to fit the experience. Likewise, this column presents only a few examples, but hopefully they can launch you towards fully incorporating a reflective mindset into your professional practice. Identifying areas that can be improved or updated is the first step to resolving or refining them and through reflection you can continue to grow professionally.