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Team-teaching: Trends among Business Reference Librarians

As a second-year graduate student in the MLIS program at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, I served as an intern to Steve Cramer, Business Librarian at UNCG's Jackson Library. In addition to familiarizing myself with the business databases and working with students via email, chat, and in person and with professionals on a business discussion list, I was invited to shadow Steve as he attended or facilitated a variety of committee meetings, including Business Librarians in North Carolina (BLINC) gatherings, taught one- and two-session business literacy courses for a business communications course, and team-taught an upper-level marketing course with Associate Professor, Nicholas Williamson, of UNCG's Bryan Business School, accompanied by the Executive in Residence, Sam Troy.

The marketing course evolved from Steve's early departmental liaison work. Williamson had designed and previously taught a class focusing on UN trade data, International Marketing, (MKT 426), which is required of all marketing majors. Over the course of the semester, students work with real companies and try to make an international sale on their behalf. They sometimes succeed! At the time, Steve was teaching a trade-data class and asked to attend Dr. Williamson's class so he could tailor the types of reference materials he presented to students. Williamson later asked him to watch the final presentations and assist with evaluations, and now introduces him as his teaching partner.

When Steve first began working with him, Dr. Williamson's book, Export Odyssey, had been in use for a few years. To incorporate the most up-to-date business references sources,

Team-teaching with business faculty (and those in other disciplines) is nothing new for reference librarians. Such collaboration might be one of several types:

Short-term limited involvement such as provision of the ubiquitous one-shot class offered