Researcher-Led Researcher Development: the Hive Scholar Model at the University of Sussex

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Outline

• The Sussex Research Hive and the Hive Scholar Scheme
• Sharing experiences of being a Hive Scholar
• Discussion groups and planning
Sussex Research Hive
Researchers’ Use of Academic Libraries and their Services

A report commissioned by the Research Information Network and the Consortium of Research Libraries

Figure 8: The percentage of researchers who visit their library at least once per week and predicted percentage for 2011

- Overall
- Arts & Humanities
- Social Sciences
- Physical Sciences
- Life Sciences
Research Hive

- **Purpose**
  - dedicated space for all researchers (doctoral, staff and academic) to meet and work

- **Aims**
  - encourage and facilitate collaborative research
  - support and develop the researcher community at Sussex
University of Warwick Wolfson Research Exchange,

Graduate School Reading Room, University of Leicester
SAGE donates to the University of Sussex Library

Posted on December 21, 2010 by Mithu Lucraft

Late last month, I attended the launch of the University of Sussex library’s new space for postgraduate researchers: the ‘Sussex Research Hive’. SAGE has contributed funds towards the launch of this space over two years, which will be matched by a government grant.

The donation is being used to support a new Research Support Programme developed by the Library, part of which involves the ‘hive’ in the Library for researchers and academics to meet and discuss their work.

The opportunity was brought to us by Jane Harvell, Head of the Library’s Academic Services, who has worked with Head of Journals Marketing, Bernie Folan, to approach a range of publishers for donations. If you would like to contribute to future projects, please contact the University of Sussex Library directly.
Setting up the Hive Scholarships

3 Scholarships
£3,000 bursary each
10-month duration
Average 6 hours per week
Research Hive Scholars

• First appointed Nov 2010
• 2010/11 funded with Roberts’ money
• Two main elements to role
  – Face of the Hive / interpersonal
  – Developmental / promotional role
Selling the scholarship idea to the institution (1)

- Low resource load
  - Low budget
  - Minimal admin
  - Supervision by current staff

- Responsibility shared across two units
- First year funded by Roberts legacy
- Promised sustainability: future years absorbed into Library and Research and Enterprise Division budgets
Selling the scholarship idea to the institution (2)

• Benefits for the institution
  – Peer to peer support (credibility)
  – Cross-discipline (focus on commonalities)
  – Researcher community building
  – Increased interaction between researchers
  – Increased engagement with researcher development
  – Positive impact on QAA
  – Positive impact on PRES results
  – Positive impact on REF ‘research environment’
Scholar Role Description

- Marketing & awareness of the Hive
- Promote researcher communities within Sussex
- Assist PGRs with the Library & researcher resources
- Refer researchers to other support available
- Promotion of institution repository
- Use web 2.0 technologies to promote research
- Support other researcher activities
- Collect Hive-user feedback
- Presenting evaluations to stakeholders
- Any other duties...
What the Scholars actually do

Shifts in the Hive
Communications & publicity
Events
Knowledge
Equipment / furniture
Records & reports
Scholars: developing professional skills

- Organising events
- Marketing & communication
- Trouble-shooting & fact-finding
- Project management
- Expand professional networks
- Knowledge of research support at Sussex
- Insight into issues affecting researchers
THURSDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 2013

How To Survive Your First Year as a Doctoral Researcher

At the beginning of the academic year 2012-13, existing doctoral students were invited to take part in writing their wisdom on the wall of the Research Hive while new doctoral researchers were invited to consider their first moves. The results were interesting . . .

What do you wish someone had told you in your first year of doctoral study?

- That not knowing will be part of knowing in the end
- Ask questions all the time
- Organise your time more effectively
Sussex Research Hive invites you to

**Shut Up and Write!**

11 December, 3.00pm, Library café
15 January, 3.00pm, Library café
12 February, 3.00pm, Library café
12 March, 3.00pm, Library café
9 April, 3.00pm, Library café

Shut Up and Write is a novel way to combat the many distractions and excuses that keep you from getting your writing done.

Meet in the Library café, have a chat with other researchers, then stop talking and start typing for one hour. You’ll be surprised how working alongside others motivates you and helps you avoid procrastination and perfectionism. Afterwards you’ll have a long piece of writing to redraft and use.

The Hive Scholars will be running a mid-month Shut Up and Write event every month until April. Please check the blog to confirm dates, and more about the Shut Up and Write phenomenon and how it works.

Please bring pen and paper or your laptop along, or email us and we can hire an ITS laptop for you (please give one week notice for this).

**Email:** researchhive@sussex.ac.uk  **Facebook:** Sussex Research Hive

**Twitter:** @sussexreshive  **Blog:** http://sussexresearchhive.blogspot.co.uk/
Sussex Research Hive @sussexreshive

@JohnHughesPhD that’s amazing, well done! I want #shutupandwrite more than once a month, it was quite a revelation.

Holly Chard @JohnHughesPhD

Wrote 1,500 words in an hour at the first @sussexreshive #shutupandwrite event. I’d highly recommend it. Thanks for the free coffee as well.

Sussex Research Hive @sussexreshive

@lizith @_ryanburns That would be great! From your tweets sounds like you’re already v productive with your #acwri

Sussex Research Hive @sussexreshive

@_RyanBurns Yay! I too felt the internet procrastination urge and it was amazingly easy to ignore. #shutupandwrite

Ryan Burns @_RyanBurns

#shutupandwrite really useful event - I wrote 500 words when I would normally have looked at 500 YouTube videos. #productive

@sussexreshive
SAGE PRESENTS:

RESEARCH HIVE
CHRISTMAS SOCIAL
AND FREE
PUB QUIZ
FALMER BACK BAR
WEDNESDAY 12TH
DECEMBER
6.30 PM

END OF TERM

Pub Quiz
From the Sussex Research Hive

Test your knowledge and compete with other teams of researchers to win fabulous prizes provided by SAGE.

The social will follow the doctoral school festive fayre.

For more information: SussexResearchHive.blogspot.com @SussexResHive ResearchHive@Sussex.ac.uk Facebook: Sussex Research Hive
SAGE Presents: What Doctoral Researchers Need to Know About Book Publishing

The Research Hive and SAGE proudly present:

What Doctoral Researchers Need to Know About Book Publishing
with Dr. Patrick Brindle,
Publisher for Online Content, SAGE Publications
How To Finish Your PhD!

As part of the Researcher Wellbeing Week 2013, Research Hive Scholar and sixth-year part-time Gender Studies doctoral candidate Charlotte Morris organised a workshop for research students to share experiences, issues and insights into what it takes to finish a PhD. No matter what stage of your doctoral journey you are at, it can often feel hard to keep going and stay motivated. When you first being working on your doctorate, it can seem like a dauntingly long journey ahead; when in the middle of your doctorate it can feel overwhelming and even as you are writing up you might be wondering if you will ever finish.

The session began with a discussion on the issues which can potentially hold back doctoral researchers from being able to move forward and complete. The most prominent theme here was poor supervision and
week and to check out wellbeing resources on the doctoral school page. Final wellbeing tips for this week (but feel free to get in touch with more / a related blogpost!):
1. Remember, always have something fun to look forward to!
2. Don’t judge yourself too harshly!
3. The odd massage...
The Sussex Sport Therapy room offers generous student discounts and looks well worth investigating...
Remember wellbeing walk @ 3 starting at Falmer House courtyard.

As part of the Researcher Wellbeing Week, do come and add your tips to the Hive wall and get in touch if you would like to contribute a wellbeing related blogpost – researchhive@sussex.ac.uk. Todays top wellbeing tips:
1. Have a plan. But only work on individual pieces of the total project – otherwise its overwhelming!
2. Make time for family and friends.
3. When it all gets too much go for a run – it’s good thinking time.
Or if you’re not the running type, come and join us for a wellbeing walk tomorrow to discover the surrounding area followed by a drink. Meet in the court outside Falmer House @ 3 – hope to see you there!
Juggling the PhD and the Personal

The Researcher Wellbeing Week at the University of Sussex (25th February – 1st March 2013) was an invaluable opportunity for doctoral researchers and research staff to reflect on their wellbeing and consider strategies to manage and enhance it. This is a reflection on how I have managed my wellbeing over the past six years of doing a part-time Gender Studies PhD in the hope that it might be beneficial to others. It’s fair to say I have had many challenges since starting my journey at the University of Sussex in 2006 and so looking after myself has been absolutely vital.

I am a single mother of three and the first hurdle was moving down to Brighton with three children who at that time were 11, 11 and 9. Much of that year seemed to be taken up with getting the children settled in new schools, organising the house and getting used to my new job as a part-time researcher, alongside my PhD. Luckily at that time the children still went to bed fairly early and so I made the most of my time in the evenings to read and at the end of year two to work on the 10,000 word transfer of status document.
RESEARCH HIVE
YEAR-END PICNIC

JOIN US FOR:
A PICNIC LUNCH!
FOOTBALL!
ROUNDEKERS!
GIANT JENGA!
GIANT CONNECT FOUR!
PIMMS!
and MORE!

13TH JUNE • STANMER PARK • NOON
RSVP TO researchhive@sussex.ac.uk
The Hive Scholar Experience
E: researchhive@sussex.ac.uk
W: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/library/research/hive
T: http://twitter.com/sussexresearchhive
B: http://sussexresearchhive.blogspot.co.uk/
F: http://www.facebook.com/SussexResearchHive