

# Appendix B

Dear Librarians:

I am currently working on a doctoral degree in the Higher Education Program at St. Jerome University. Under the supervision and direction of Dr. X, and with the support of dissertation committee members Dr. Y and Dr. Z, I am carrying out research for my dissertation entitled: *The Academic Librarian as Blended Professional: Reassessing the Perception of the Position*.

This study emerged based upon my professional experiences at both the Urban II Library and Alexander VI Library here at St. Jerome University. As I am sure many of you can attest, I have witnessed many misconceptions from faculty, students, and staff alike about the libraries and their personnel's role at the university. From the perspective of higher education theorists, the role and identity of academic librarians is often misunderstood. This study will attempt to clarify some of these misconceptions by portraying academic librarians from a viewpoint that utilizes higher education based-theory.

I will argue that the traditional mold of tenure-track faculty does not fit the roles of academic librarians, who are better defined in higher education terms as blended professionals. Blended professionals are individuals who bridge gaps in both institutional and external silos in order to perform their professional and academic duties. By utilizing the blended professional model, the study will better establish the specifics of the position in the context of the professional duties of academic librarians.

Additionally, this study will be gender specific in studying the identity of female academic librarians, simultaneously analyzing the often challenging and complex roles and identities of women and academic librarians within the position of faculty. The study endeavors to determine how the multiplicity of roles impacts the professional identity of academic librarians and how this, in turn, might impact professional development.

Therefore, at its core, this case study seeks to determine what the blended professional identity of female faculty librarians at St. Jerome University is and how this blended professional identity shapes the female academic librarians' professional growth. Your personal insight and experience will be instrumental in exploring these issues.

With the approval of the St. Jerome University Institutional Research Board, I ask you to become a participant in the study. Participation is voluntary, and you are under no obligation to contribute. Interviews should take approximately 30–60 min. Names and identities of participating librarians will be kept confidential.

I hope to schedule and conduct the interviews during the 2014 summer session. If you are willing to participate, reply to this email, and I will accommodate any request based upon your scheduling preferences. My planning to travel to the distributed campus libraries is also expected and not an issue.

If you have questions about this project and would like clarification from someone other than the researcher, email or call my dissertation advisor, Dr. X, Associate Professor of Higher Education (phone: xxx-xxx-xxxx; email: [xxxxxxx@xxx.xxx](mailto:xxxxxxx@xxx.xxx)).

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Michael Perini