Building a Medical Library from the Ground Up

From Zero to Hero(?) in Less Than a Year
Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine

- Announced - Feb 2016
- Groundbreaking - May 2017
- Job offered - June 2017
- Started - Feb 2018
- Moved into building - July 2018
- Hired 2nd librarian - July 2018
- First class - August 2018 (162 students)
Decisions to be Made

- Digital vs Print
- Budget
- Collection development
- Staffing
- Hours
- Document delivery/ILL
- ILS/Catalog/Discovery
- Website
- *Library design/furniture*
- Values/Mission/Policies
Challenges

● New to medical schools
● New to osteopathic medicine
● New to administration
● Not a systems librarian
● Not a technical services librarian
● Starting from nothing
Survival Tactics

- Find your people
- Ask for help
- Know that YOU are the expert
- Know that it won’t be perfect
- You aren’t a super librarian
- Never stop advocating
- HAVE FUN!
What Not To Do

- Freak out
- Assume you’re on your own
- Worry about looking dumb
- Doubt yourself
- Try to do everything
Questions?
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