

Electronic Communication Assignment

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How to Subscribe to the Conntech mailing list:

In order to subscribe to the Conntech emailing list, you first have to visit <http://mylist.net/listinfo/conntech>. The page contains information about Conntech, such as how to post a discussion topic, what etiquette must be followed and replying to posters on the list serve.

Scrolling down, there is a section titled “Subscribing to Conntech” with several text boxes. The Conntech site requests an email address (I used the one that I was provided through my job at the library). You have the option to include your name, but this is not necessary to posting/receiving. The site then asks for a password, password confirmation and asks the languages you want the messages in. You can also request a ‘daily digest’ from the Conntech mailing list here, to condense the day’s information into a short summary.

After clicking ‘Subscribe’ you will be sent a confirmation email and you are on the list. Simply click the link provided and you are added onto the Conntech list serve. You can unsubscribe at anytime by visiting the site again.

The Purpose of the List:

The Conntech list serve is for library directors, librarians, library employees and library science students in order to get the most up to date information about library news in the local Connecticut area. The list connects members of public libraries in all disciplines so that they may interact and better serve the public.

Looking at the activity over the course of being subscribed to this emailing list, there are several different ways in which librarians and library directors use the discussion listing. Librarians can discuss equipment and materials they have purchased

as well as programs they have held in the past. From companies to repair LCD projectors to finding new homes for materials that they no longer need, librarians can exchange stories and information to help librarians in other libraries make informed decisions. The list also allows directors to discuss policies and ideas with other directors. The list gives directors opportunities to post jobs for students who may happen to be on the list, in addition to announcements for academic scholarships and professional developments that librarians and library students can attend to better improve their skills in the field.

The purpose, if one single purpose had to be chosen, is to connect librarians to one another. Librarians of all experience levels can exchange information in a fast paced world and quickly find more efficient and better ways to serve the public.

Transcripts:

Personally, I felt very unqualified to respond to many of the postings from directors and professionals in the library world. Still, I felt there were some responses I was able make to librarians on the listing. These were suggestions and recommendations based on minimal policies that didn't effect the libraries infrastructure, and all were based on policies and ideas that came from staff at my library and my library director. Still, these discussions were the only ones I felt especially qualified to answer. Below are the transcripts from two conversations I had on the site. There was no direct follow up from any of the directors posting the initial messages.

First Conversation

Initial Posting:

Hello-

I am wondering how other libraries handle independent paid tutors using the library.

Do you allow them to reserve library rooms for weekly, or several times a week sessions?

How many students can they "tutor" at a time?

Any written policies you can share would be appreciated!

Thanks,

Debra

My Response:

We allow tutors in our library to do one-on-one sessions in our small study rooms. We have some that come in once a week and others that are there almost daily (one home schooled student meets with his tutor every morning first thing). In these cases, it's first come first serve as far as who gets the rooms. We have one small group of students who meet in a group of six or seven, but this is a group that meets once a week. Since we allow rooms to be reserved a week in advance, groups or pairings can make reservations for the next week (again, first come first serve).

We have no 'written policy' that I'm aware of, but the reference department has agreed on this.

We used to charge tutors for the space, but realized they make so little money, that it wasn't very fair to take too much. Eventually, we dropped the practice of charging them completely.

-Nick Westbrook

Second Conversation:

Initial Posting:

I am looking at instituting a dress code and would rather not start from scratch. Might one or more of you share yours?

Thanks in advance,

Sue Dowdell

Director, Beacon Falls Library

My Response:

At Guilford, they call it 'Business Casual'.

For the men, dress pants and button down shirts with a collar are the only 'requirements'.

Any shoes that aren't sneakers are allowed. Generally speaking, we don't wear ties.

The women have a few other options, but usually it's dress pants or a skirt with a dress shirt of some kind. On my first day it was described as what you would wear to an office, so that helped narrow down the options.

We also have jean Fridays, but that's more of a town idea than the library itself.

Hope that puts some direction into your question.

-Nick Westbrook

Conclusion:

The emailing list is very important to directors and professional librarians. It allows for the libraries to discuss conflicts and problems that might come up on the day-to-day basis as well as over the course of along period of time. The emailing list is important to communicate with many librarians at once, providing another incredibly helpful resource for librarians and directors. It also allows for professionals to put items that they n longer need up for grabs and provide information to attend useful seminars and helpful resources to make the library service better.

There are drawbacks to the listing. Personally, I found it intimidating to offer my services on the emailing list, due to inexperience and lack of answers for my librarian

mentors. The emailing list seems more practical to library professionals and directors, so that they can discuss long-term policies and trade ideas on materials. But to someone just entering the library world, it seems like the email listing is best used as a tool for understanding the problems and issues that may arrive from within the library.