

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP 1

Starting A Youtube Channel for Librarians in 2021

Sabine Klein*

Eli Harriss**

Abstract

Librarians, especially medical librarians, often present and participate in courses on e.g. databases, systematic searching, reference management software, open access publishing etc. In 2020, due to the pandemic, many of these courses were taught online, and it became apparent that location – and even time-independent courses are popular, especially for some groups of clients (e.g. medical doctors or librarians living in remote areas).

After all the virtual communication, have you ever wanted to go one step further and make your own videos with library-related content or to start a YouTube channel? Or wondered how difficult this would be and what it would take in terms of equipment and effort? Or are you considering yourself too shy to talk to a camera?

In this workshop, the first steps towards content creation will be discussed: finding your style, learning about video production, and overcoming obstacles. Information and experiences from a new librarian YouTuber will be shared. We aim to create an EAHIL video together.

Methods

The decision was made to launch a (private) YouTube channel directed to librarians, researchers, and other interested parties. A lot of videos were watched on how to start a channel. Information was gathered on how to film and cut simple videos. A vlogging camera and tripod was bought. It was decided that the channel should work primarily in German, but English subtitles could be provided to reach more viewers.

Results

The channel “die bibliothekarinnen” (German for “the librarians”, plural of female form; <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEPWtxjLaQSaq9AU3Mr5-TA>) was created and the first video on graphic medicine uploaded on 4th January 2021. This was communicated via private Facebook and Twitter accounts. The video was well received and commented on by colleagues. The overall feeling of this and

* Main Library, University of Zurich, Switzerland, kontakt@sabineklein.ch

** Bodleian Health Care Libraries, United Kingdom, eli.harriss@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

the upcoming videos is that of a coffee lecture, e.g. it is short and presented in an entertaining way. Longer and more in-depth videos will follow.

Discussion

It is planned to upload a video every two to three weeks. When the lockdowns are ended and the situation improves, other libraries will be visited and other librarians involved. In the oral presentation at the workshop, the experiences on the way will be presented: how much time does it take to produce a video, which equipment is necessary at the beginning, which are the main obstacles, which are the rewards. Hopefully, it will be possible to make a video about the EAHIL workshop in Istanbul and to involve participants in the discussion about the use of such videos.

Keywords: Librarian, YouTube, Film, Information Literacy, Online Teaching

MARMARA
ÜNİVERSİTESİ