Public Library Fieldwork Supervisors
The Fieldwork Experience From Their Perspective

Problem Statement
• Little research exists about the fieldwork experience from the site supervisor’s point of view. This study will identify the practices and interactions of the site supervisor.

Research Questions
• In what ways do supervisors and students work through the Zone of Proximal Development?
• How do supervisors assess student knowledge?

Methodology
• Online survey in Qualtrics
• Qualitative and quantitative responses
• Recruit through listservs and at conferences
• Analyze in SPSS and Wordle
• Compare reported assessment methods to library school assessment tools

Lev Vygotsky’s ZPD
• The Zone of Proximal Development is the area between what the student knows and the supervisor knows.
• A student can move to a higher level of intellectual development with interaction of a more capable peer (the supervisor!)
• Together they set goals, complete assignments, and periodically assess to gauge the transfer of knowledge.

Implications
• Help LIS programs with curriculum
• Improve student practicum experiences
• Increase collaboration with ‘real-world’ practitioners
• Frame future research

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