

Creating a Successful Mentoring Program: Developing SANDALL Buddies

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The SANDALL Buddies program was created in fall of 2010, in conjunction with San Diego Area Law Libraries (SANDALL), for library students with an interest in law librarianship. The program was initially designed to connect students and law librarians specifically living in the San Diego area. However, the program gained interest from several students in Los Angeles County and even some in Northern California. This led us to expand the program to include several virtual pairings.

This poster details the initial development of the Buddies program including: recruiting participants, developing goals, matching criteria and the technology used for virtual pairings. Once past the building stage of a program, it can be challenging to keep the matched pairs actively involved throughout the duration of the program. The program coordinators should regularly offer suggestions or projects to keep the pairs interest and ensure that the goals of the program are met. These suggestions will differ depending on the purpose of the program, but most often, mentees prefer to learn skills or work on projects with a tangible result. Ideally, these results can be listed on a resume or showcased for a potential employer. In the same manor, mentors should feel that they work they are putting in has a positive impact and will benefit the mentee.

SANDALL Buddies is now in its second year with some pairs in San Diego and some pairs matched virtually with participants located throughout California. The program has been fully adopted by SANDALL with the intent of continuing and expanding it in future.