Better living through (animated) chemistry

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Library and Technology Services

About Brandeis
- private liberal arts college
- students: 3200 undergrads, 1900 grads

About Library & Technology Services
- merged organization
- liaison role within LTS
- support teaching, learning & research
- connect community members with information
People like teaching & learning with technology!
Cases in point...

- Journalism
- Linguistics
- Spanish
- English

- And now...chemistry
Along comes one of our chemistry lecturer...
Along came our chemistry lecturer… with a large organic chemistry course.
Organic Chemistry (CHEM 25)

Non-segregated course
- 180 students: 20 honors students

Reciprocal teaching model
- SSGs (structured study groups)
- Additional tasks for honors
animate a chemical reaction mechanism.
Faculty member's considerations:

- Software access
  - lab-based vs. open source
- Platform
- Ease of use/reliability
A typical scenario:

- Faculty
- Liaison
- Research
- Staff
- Students
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Where do we fit in?

Provide
Advise
Instruct
Connect
Capture
Challenges:

- Equipment/software
- Expertise
- Ownership
- Time
- Risk of failure
Opportunities:

- New niches of expertise
- Expand perceptions of library & LTS staff
- Foot in the door
- Word of mouth
- Keeps us on our toes!
Ongoing Tensions

Prioritizing Services

- Low threshold vs. high end
- Open source vs. proprietary
A Few Lessons Learned

 Clarify expectations early & often
 Make use of students
 Liaisons as connectors
Thank you!

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