Having a mentor helps me navigate the University of Minnesota library system (even though we are at different campuses). It has helped me learn about university and library governance, committees, the merit review process, setting goals for the year, how to manage priorities to balance work/home life, how to spread time among numerous job duties (e.g. liaison role, service, and research).

The mentor relationship opens up my networking network. I have met and been introduced to people I probably wouldn’t have met in my regular work-life.

The mentor relationship provides me with another perspective on what is “normal” for work. Much of our jobs (despite being very different) are very similar. Stresses and juggling vary priorities appear to happen in numerous environments. Having another librarian to talk to helps me manage this in a healthy way.

Why mentor? It’s good for you, the connection with a librarian at a different library and phase of career helps you look at your career projection. Mentoring is fun and it gives you renewed energy for your career as a librarian.

New opportunities emerge, such as the poster session at LSLS and learning about other professional opportunities.

Mentoring another librarian is a reciprocal relationship that is beneficial to both librarians.

I like that I can be a sounding board for Shannon and that we can talk out issues and concerns. We have different viewpoints on librarianship and new perspectives are essential for librarians at any point in their career.

Scheduling meetings can be via video chat, such as Google Hangout, FaceTime, Skype, etc. Also having some Face to Face meetings is beneficial for both librarians. Digital tools make scheduling straightforward; Shannon and I are able to share calendars and documents to keep connected.