Peter Drucker: The Ultimate Knowledge Worker

Bruce Rosenstein
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Drucker’s essential principles

• Management is about all sectors, not just business

• Management is about managing yourself as well as others
Why should librarians care?

• His focus on knowledge: he coined the term knowledge worker in the late 1950s
• His focus on concepts we value personally and professionally
• An incredible inspiration and role model
The Librarian’s advantage

• You understand the data-information-knowledge continuum
• Drucker had to teach this to executives
• He was fascinated by the reference interview, calling it a catalyst to knowledge
Drucker’s tools for knowledge workers

- Results are on the outside of the organization
- Planned/systematic abandonment
- Focus on results and responsibilities, not good intentions and ‘empowerment’
- Focus on your contributions
- How will you convert non-customers?
5 Questions, Self-Assessment

• What is our mission/business?
• Who is our customer?
• What does the customer value?
• What are our results?
• What is our plan?
Drucker’s tools for self-management

• The power of a parallel career…
• …And the role played by nonprofits
• Reinvent yourself when necessary; turn age into an advantage
• The three year self-study system, or its accelerated three month version
• Ask yourself: what needs to be done? Not, what do I want to do?
Drucker for the future...

- The Drucker Institute
- The Peter F. Drucker and Masatoshi Ito Graduate School of Management, at Claremont Graduate University
- The Leader to Leader Institute
Final thought: how does it play out in our lives and careers?

- Drucker was listened to and respected by top executives worldwide…
- He also loved librarians…
- Are there any valuable connections to be made between those two statements?