Q: Is the community of practice all librarians? If not, who else.
A: There are currently 8 UTL Librarians and one researcher from the IPO. Others are welcome to join, attend meetings as guests, or as invited guest speakers. Email me carey.toane@utoronto.ca for more information.

Q: When do you meet and how can we find out?
A: We meet quarterly and our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Feb. 24. Please email me if you’d like to attend.

Q: Where is collections in all of this? Isn't that what your students want?
Q: How do students access expensive market research? We get more and more questions on this but don’t always know how to respond.
A: Students do often want expensive market reports that they find through press releases on newswires, but we can’t buy these for them. Often they can cobble together much of the information through a variety of different sources, and this is an opportunity for a teachable moment. Currently I don’t have a budget for collections. I am in the process of evaluating available resources (primarily business resources such as company, industry and market information databases, but also statistical information, finance lab resources, journals, and general databases such as Factiva and ProQuest) to see where they can be applied to this subject matter. We do have a subscription to MarketResearch.com Academic edition, and there are market report sets such as TechNavio and MarketLine available through Factiva and BSP respectively. Another source of market information is Passport GMID. Please see the Entrepreneurship LibGuide for links to these and more sources.
http://guides.library.utoronto.ca/entrepreneurship

Q: How wide is the interdisciplinary coverage of the entrepreneurship buy-in? Thinking social sciences and humanities?
A: Traditionally the focus for tech entrepreneurship has been STEM disciplines but the same principles of starting a company based on research can be applied to any area of study. Some higher-profile Humanities and Social Sciences startups that have come out of U of T include:
http://www.votecompass.com/ (Political Science)
http://www.essayjack.com/ (English)
http://www.linkitz.com/ (Classics)
There are other exciting interdisciplinary labs and research groups coming out of non-traditional areas (not so unusual if you read Oliver Sacks!) such as the Music and Health group: http://uoftmusicmahrc.ca/

Q: How can a liaison support someone who is either alumni or about to graduate who is pursuing entrepreneurship?
It depends on what their needs are. If they are looking to access the entrepreneurship ecosystem I would direct them to BBCIE (http://entrepreneurs.utoronto.ca), or the IPO (http://www.research.utoronto.ca/industry-and-partners/), or MaRS, which is the Regional Innovation Centre for Toronto (https://www.marsdd.com/venture-services/). Access to most library resources is, as you know, limited to U of T community members with valid UTORid. There are many open resources created by and for the startup community if they’re looking for e.g. companies operating or launching in a particular space.

Q: Can you describe a project or startup idea that you have supported so far? What support did you provide?
A lot of the support I provide is email reference and research consultations for students and faculty. A group of students came to me looking for sources of funding for a prototype for a diagnostic imaging tool that uses a smartphone. I directed them to a variety of resources available in Toronto. Another question was a faculty who was looking for statistics on negative results for a particular disease screening in Canada. Another student came to me looking for ways to beta test a free software tool he had created with U of T students. I also work with entrepreneurship courses doing a kind of very focused and practical business IL, and related reference follow up. Many of these courses have loose or formal ties to the accelerators on campus so it all ties in together.