

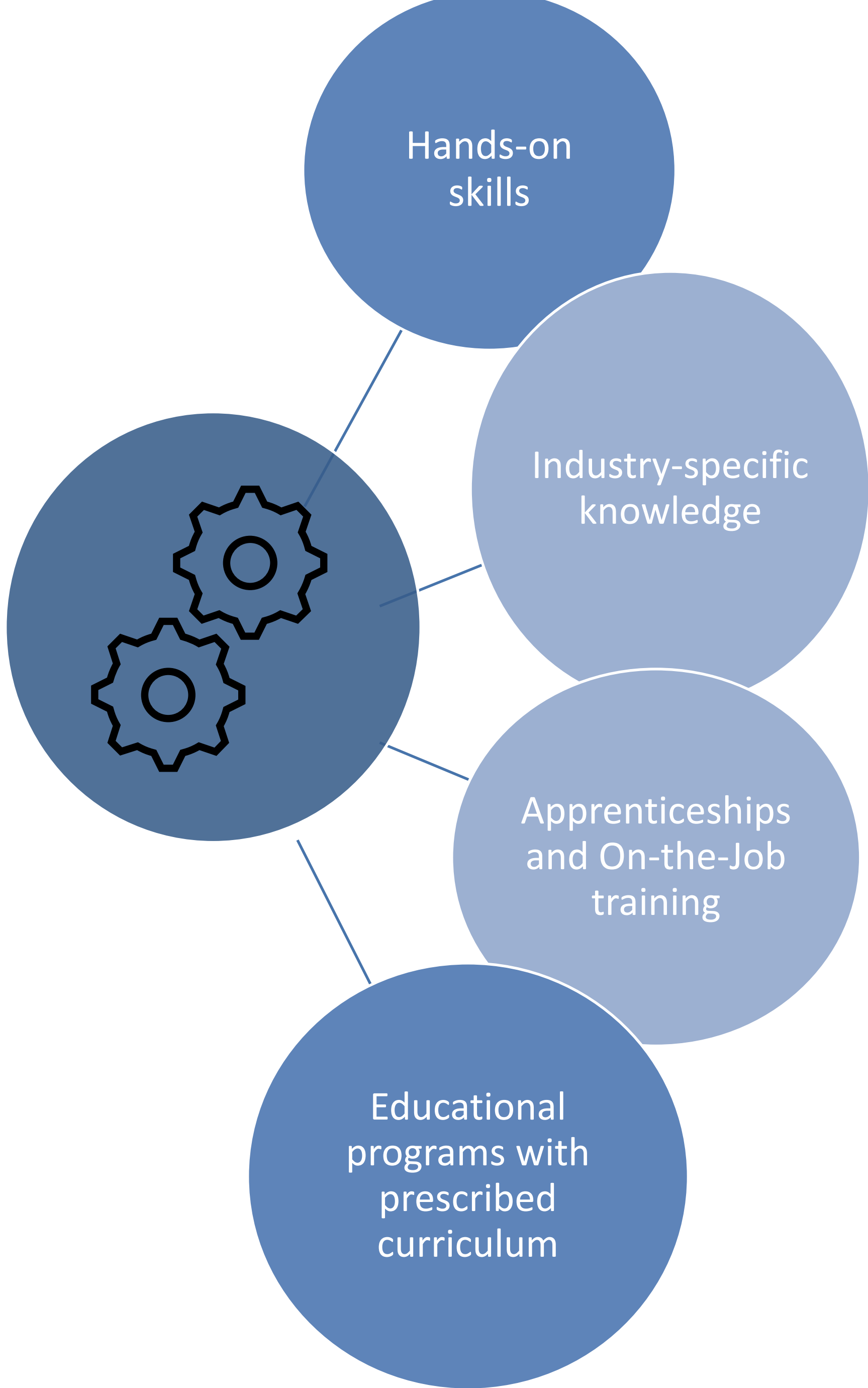
Are we on your radar? Exploring the role of an aviation library in our academic library

What is trades librarianship?

In our experience we find:

- ✂ Most trades librarians are balancing other liaison areas
- ✂ Unlike other areas, many trades librarians do not come to the profession with the intention of being “trades librarians”
- ✂ Many trades programs are not located near libraries
- ✂ The most successful trades librarians are closely enmeshed with their subject faculty

What is trades education?



Reflections of ACRL’s Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education in our work with maintenance documentation

Authority Is Constructed and Contextual

- ✂ Responding to manufacturers’ constant required revision of maintenance documents in response to incidents

Information Has Value

- ✂ High cost and strict usage terms of maintenance documents (=commercial assets)



Scholarship as Conversation

- ✂ Students learn about the role of record-keeping in maintenance document revisions

Searching as a Strategic Exploration

- ✂ Teaching students the understanding of standardized chapter headings

ACRL. (2016). Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education.



BCIT Library as a Technical Library

BCIT Aerospace operates as a satellite campus outside of our main Burnaby Campus. We teach airport management and operations, airplane piloting, and aircraft maintenance engineer programs.

Our library supports these programs through the following;

Resources such as 3D printing, maintenance documentation, flight simulators, and technical monographs.

Service with a full-time library technician who oversees the library and is notable for her connection to students, staff, and faculty.

Technology & space as one of the most reliably open areas in the niche campus, our library has become the lunchroom, nap room, study spot, and project space for students.

Instruction opportunities at the beginning of every cohort to demonstrate the utility of the library to students, especially as it relates to their programming.

What struggles do we face?

- ✂ Lack of understanding about our role in students’ academic career
- ✂ Sometimes forgotten in big-picture discussions (campus and library)
- ✂ Limited understanding about what we do from other library staff
- ✂ Attempting to meet industry software standards is expensive and time-consuming
- ✂ Aircraft often arrive without maintenance documentation, rendering them pedagogically useless until we intervene
- ✂ Industry vendors can be reluctant to provide us with maintenance documentation

Where do we go from here?

We are attempting to start a community of practice in our field, with aims to:

- ✂ Encourage future trades librarians
- ✂ Provide support to current trades librarians
- ✂ Define “trades librarianship”

If you have experience liaising with students of any discipline you would consider a trade, we would love to hear from you!

