Embedded Librarians: Building Relationships with the Honors College

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EMBEDDED LIBRARIANS: BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE HONORS COLLEGE

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Liaison Librarian for Visual Arts and Honors College
Overview

- 14 sections with librarians assigned to particular section(s)
- Friday recitations
- Team teaching
- 4 classes (instruction & activities) & 1 class for research help
- Individual research appointments later in semester
- Online presence (Blackboard & Library Website)
- Library writing assignments—grading
- Material connected to coursework as appropriate
Where We Came From

- One 50 minute class during semester
- Teaching the Teaching Assistants/TAs
  - Week before Fall Semester
  - Voluntary
  - New teachers
Where We’re Going

Fall 2010:

- Multiple library instruction sessions
  - Course integrated
- Online involvement through Blackboard
- Variety of instructional strategies
  - Presentations/Demonstrations
  - In-class group activities
  - Graded assignments
Collaboration

With the Honors College:

- Library-Faculty Collaboration
- Meetings with Dean of Honors College
- Meetings with dean, faculty & TAs during planning process
- Faculty & TAs from various departments
- Shared wiki
Shared Wiki

**HNRS 110: Research Methods**

**Shared Wiki**

**HNRS 110 Material for Fall 2010**

- Sylabus (student version: Aug 20, 2010)
- Draft syllabus for instructors and librarians (updated August 10, 2010)
- First four weeks in detail (updated July 20, 2010)
- Resources for the narrative of the life of Frederick Douglass
- Library sessions

**Share Your Ideas for Teaching Activities**

- Refining discount offers: how to help tools in the Blackboard menu (from Scott)
- Ideas for the first week of class (from Eve)
- Harper’s Index: “Research” (from Suzie)
- The difference between “report” and “research” (from Mark)
- Activities in supplement to Cronon (from Mark)
- End-of-Week 1 official short case study (from Mark)
- Storyboarding Butt Brew Narratives / Cronon (from Andy H.)

**Reading Material**

- PDF versions of recommended or required student reading for HNRS 110
  - Refining discount offers: how to help tools in the Blackboard menu (from Scott)
  - Ideas for the first week of class (from Eve)
  - Harper’s Index: “Research” (from Suzie)
  - The difference between “report” and “research” (from Mark)
  - Activities in supplement to Cronon (from Mark)
  - End-of-Week 1 official short case study (from Mark)
  - Storyboarding Butt Brew Narratives / Cronon (from Andy H.)

**Examples of Student Work**

Illustrative student work from previous semesters
- Sample HNRS 110 Paper on Midagarter 2009
- Sample HNRS 110 Paper on TM 2003
- Sample Paper on Perfect Man HNRS 110 2009

**Outdated Material for Fall 2010**

- Older versions of documents related to the Fall 2010 semester, available for archival purposes
  - Draft syllabus (updated July 2, 2010)

**Fall 2009 Archive**

- First versions of Fall 2009 HNRS 110 material
  - First and last versions of Fall 2009 HNRS 110 material

**Library Sessions Overview**

**Contents**

- General Overview (below)
- Library Instruction Sessions
  - Session 1: Introduction: The Information Cycle/ Evaluation of Information (week 1)
  - Session 2: Getting Started: Advanced Google/ The Libraries: Website (week 2)
  - Session 3: Exploring the Library Catalog (week 4)
  - Session 4: Navigating Library Databases (week 5)
  - Session 5: Research Help (week 6)—in-class help using databases, etc.
- Library Assignments (student writing prompts)
- Instructor Teams & Sections
- All Library Files

**General Overview**

- Four librarian-led Friday sessions: variety of instructional modes (weeks 1, 2, 4, and 5)
- Friday research sessions for student work with librarian/GTA assistance (week 6)
- Librarian availability for individual appointments with students (weeks 11 and 12)
- Library Assignments (brief writing prompts to assess library sessions)
- Blackboard discussion forums for student/librarian interaction (relevant discussions shared between sections)
Even More Collaboration

In the Libraries:

- Worked with Head of Education Services to formulate goals & learning outcomes
- Several volunteers from the library
- Team teaching in the classroom
- Experience for library staff/new librarians in safe environment
- Communication: weekly meetings, listserv...
**Semester Schedule**

**Preparation for the Research Project (weeks 1-4)**
- Week 1: The Information Cycle & Critical Thinking
- Week 2: Getting Started: Using Google & the Library InfoGuides
- Week 4: Exploring the Library Catalog

**Research, Research Proposal, Working with Sources (weeks 5-9)**
- Week 5: Navigating the Research Databases
- Week 6: Research Help
- Week 9: Research Help if requested

**Drafting and Revising and Presenting the Research Project (weeks 10-15)**
- Week 11: Individual Appointments (as requested)
- Week 12: Individual Appointments (as requested)

*Additional support will be provided throughout the semester*
Pre-Test: What They Got Right

Percentage of Correct Answers

Questions

1: Reading an LC call number
2: Definition of Plagiarism
3: (https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?hl=en&formkey=dEh1UFNKdXYxU2Mzdkg2N1BPN0NNZEE6MQ#gid=0)
Hands-On Learning

- Interactive learning
- In-class activities
  - Group exercises, etc.
- To reinforce instruction
- Computer classrooms
- Examples
In-Class Activities

Interactive Learning

Directed Learning

Step 2:

Search the catalog to find publications written by Frederick Douglass.

What are some of the publication types you found (e.g. books, e-books, videos)?

What are the locations of the books listed on the first page of results (e.g. online, Fenwick stacks, Prince William campus)?

Do you see a title in the search results that has multiple holdings? If yes, click on the title link. Are any of these items available to check out?

Staggering the Learning...

- Selected Search Terms:
  - Human computer interaction
  - Video games and violence
  - Climate change and public health
  - Cancer and diet
  - Elder abuse
  - Sports injury and prevention
  - Impressionism and art
Library Assignments

- 5 writing assignments
- 200-250 words in paragraph form
- 10% of grade
- Blackboard: Add contact & Grade

**Purpose:** To reflect on lessons from previous library session
Example of Library Assignment

- **Library Session #2:** *Getting Started OR Now what do I do?*—Using Google and the Library InfoGuides

- **Purpose of this assignment:** Start thinking about information sources and appropriateness for academic research.

- **Writing Assignment:**
  Imagine that you are writing a research paper on a historical figure from your readings (exs: Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, Rosa Parks). Then answer the following questions.

  Search Google for information on your figure. Look at the first page results/hits.
  What did you find? Are there academic sites? Commercial, etc.? Would these sources be helpful in writing a scholarly, academic research paper? Why or why not? Please elaborate.
InfoGuide (aka LibGuide)

- One stop shopping for students
  - Class presentations
  - Library writing assignments
  - Additional material: Images, videos, websites, etc.

- Link to InfoGuide from each Blackboard section

- Links to subject-based infoguides
Honors College InfoGuide

http://infoguides.gmu.edu/honors

980 hits as of September 22, 2010
Honors 110 Section
What's Next...

- Assessment
  - Students
  - Librarians
  - Faculty
  - Teaching Assistants

- Determine what worked & what didn’t

- Adjust involvement to maintain sustainability
Conclusion

Issues/Roadblocks

“I think we’re seeing the problems of interdisciplinary communication.” —Dean of College

Technology

Staffing

First-year growing pains

Where to go from here?

Maintain involvement based on this progress

BUT Revamp based on assessment

Option: Incorporate more online tutorials/videos

Benefits

Public Relations/Marketing the Library/Establish relationships

Using lessons plans for other instruction when appropriate
Questions/Discussions

- **Contact Information**
  - Jenna Rinalducci: jrinaldu@gmu.edu
  - Liaison Librarian for Honors College & Visual Arts

- **Online Information**
  - Infoguides:
    - Honors College: [http://infoguides.gmu.edu/honors](http://infoguides.gmu.edu/honors)
    - Section for Honors 110
    - Honor 110 TAs: [http://infoguides.gmu.edu/hnrs110tas](http://infoguides.gmu.edu/hnrs110tas)

- **Questions?**