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Why Digital Does Not Equal Daunting: The Role of Information Management Tools in Supporting Faculty Research through Topic-Specific Library Workshops

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“Digital” ≠ “Daunting”:
Role of Information Management Tools in Supporting Faculty Research through Topic-Specific Library Workshops

Stan Trembach and Liya Deng
Jack Tarver Library Mercer University
September 25, 2009
Background

- Tarver Library print journal collections
  - About 3,000 print journals in our catalog
  - More online journals are available in full-text
  - Electronic materials are popular & preferable
- Print journal review project
  - Multiple print journals cancellation
  - More space available for study areas
- Design specific-topic workshops
  - A-Z Journal Locator & RefWorks
Workshop Planning

• Submitted a proposal
  • Purpose
  • Marketing and implementation
  • Workshop structure
  • Target audience
  • Feedback
  • Projected outcomes

• Set up the dates and schedule
Implementation

- Publicized the workshops via multiple avenues
  - News @ Mercer
  - This Week @ Mercer
  - Emails to academic departments by subject librarians
  - Promotional flyers in campus buildings (45 flyers)
  - Library news blog
  - Library home page
- Collaboration of several library units
Tarver Library to Hold Faculty Instructional Workshops

This month, Tarver Library kicks off a series of brief, interactive A-Z e-journal Locator / RefWorks Instructional Workshops. The workshops offer continuing education for those seeking to understand how to best to use the library’s online journal collection, select resources relevant to faculty research and teaching needs and manage citations efficiently.

Each workshop will consist of two 30-minute modules. Module I will focus on searching print vs. electronic journals followed by a closer look at the A-Z Journal Locator tool. To facilitate the discussion, sample searches will be performed using some major titles in related fields. Module II is designed to highlight the essential features and capabilities of RefWorks citation management software, including importing search results to create ready-to-use bibliographic citations.

Courses will be held in Tarver Library’s Chappell Classroom Nov. 3 – Dec. 3 in three sessions a week, Mondays from 3 – 4:15 p.m., Wednesdays, 2 – 3:15 p.m., and Thursday 10 – 11:15 a.m.

Individual sessions are available upon request.
A-Z e-journal Instructional Workshops Offered to Faculty

A series of brief, interactive A-Z e-journal Locator/RefWorks instructional workshops will be taught throughout November, offering continuing education for those seeking to understand how to best utilize libraries. The workshops will be held in the Jack Tarver Library Chappell Classroom. For more information, contact Stan Trembach, extension 5334 or trembach_sa@mercer.edu, or Liya Deng, extension 2934 or deng_l@mercer.edu, or click here.

Scientific Inquiry Fall Symposium On Sustainability on November 11

The Scientific Inquiry program will hold its Fall Symposium, titled "Building Sustainable Futures: Alternative Fuels and Conservation Technology," at 7 p.m. on Tuesday in the Medical School Auditorium. The event is part of the Scientific Inquiry program’s theme for this year, focusing on sustainability and alternative fuels. The event will feature a panel discussion with Jonathan Ludwig, regional director for a company working to turn trash into energy; Dr. Linda Smyth, of the Middle Georgia Clean Cities Coalition; Dr. Brian Rood, associate professor of chemistry and earth and environmental science, and Andrew Fahsholz, a marketing director for Riverside Ford. Light refreshments will be served at 6:30 p.m.
Monday, October 27, 2008

Mercer Faculty Only! E-journals Locator/RefWorks Instructional Workshops

What: A-Z e-journals Locator/RefWorks Instructional Workshops

Where: Tarver Library or Your Office!

When: November 2 – December 3, 2008 three sessions a week:

Monday: 3:00 – 4:15

Wednesday: 2:00 – 3:15

Thursday: 10:00 – 11:15

Individual sessions available upon request and at mutually convenient times.

Dear Mercer Faculty,

Tarver Library is preparing to launch a series of brief, interactive A-Z e-journals Locator / RefWorks Instructional Workshops. The workshops, taught throughout the month of November, offer continuing education for the faculty to enhance instructional and research skills in an online environment. Participation is encouraged. Details will be announced shortly.
Mercer Faculty Only! E-Journals Locator/RefWorks Instructional Workshops

What: A-Z e-Journals Locator/RefWorks Instructional Workshops

Where: Tarver Library or Your Office!

When: November 2 – December 3, 2008 three sessions a week:

Monday: 3:00 – 4:15

Wednesday: 2:00 – 3:15

Thursday: 10:00 – 11:15

Individual sessions available upon request and at mutually convenient times.

Dear Mercer Faculty,

Tarver Library is preparing to launch a series of brief, interactive A-Z e-Journals Locator / RefWorks Instructional Workshops. The workshops, taught throughout the month of November, offer continuing education for those of you seeking to understand how to best utilize our online journal collection, select resources relevant to your research and teaching needs, and efficiently manage citations.

Each workshop will consist of two 30-minute modules. Module 1 will focus on the Tarver Library page with emphasis on searching print vs. electronic journals followed by a closer look at the A-Z Journal Locator tool. To facilitate the discussion, sample searches will be performed using some major titles in your field.

Module I is designed to highlight the essential features and capabilities of RefWorks citation management software, including importing your search results to create ready-to-use bibliographic citations.

There will be a 5-10 minute break between the modules. You may choose to attend either part of the presentation based on your particular interest and familiarity with the material.

Please mark your calendars for any of the times suggested above. If you would like to schedule an individual session, do not hesitate to contact us:

Stan Trembach at trembach_sa@mercer.edu; x3334
OR Liya Deng at deng_li@mercer.edu; x2934.

We will do our best to accommodate your requests.

Thank you and we look forward to working with you!
Workshop Structure

- Two themes
  - A to Z eJournal Locator – online journal search tool
  - RefWorks - citation management tool
- Two modules
  - 30-minute session for each
- Time frame – November 2008
  - Three sessions per week
  - Individual sessions offered upon request
Participants

- Academic Resource Center tutors
- Mercer faculty and staff
  - Department heads
  - Provost
  - Professors of Education and Sociology
  - Library staff
Challenges

- Excessive course load/workload for Mercer tenure-track faculty
- The best marketing strategy proved to be word of mouth
Lessons Learned

- Supplement workshop content with relevant online material
- Promote individual faculty consultations
- Offer office hours in academic departments
- Use Blackboard as platform to design and deliver similar workshops involving faculty and students
Workshop Assessment

- Evaluation survey using Google form

http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?key=pvDTUfVUTCQFPbhDbsOEEdnBQ
Responses from Survey

“Very informative. I learned a lot and would recommend it to other faculty.”

“Great workshop. I learned a great deal more about the services of our library in general as well as helpful information on citations.”

“Two (!) presenters for just one client. They really took an interest in my getting as much info as possible.”
“In the future, I’d like to have workshops on: -Avoiding Plagiarism (correct citation, according to different styles); -Conducting medical research or scientific research using the library.”

“Perhaps you could get a better understanding of what the audience already knows in order to save time and really dwell on what the audience is interested in knowing.”
Summer Pilot Project

- Web-based library instruction
- Design instruction workshops using a Tarver “shell” on Blackboard
- Target Summer Online teaching faculty
- Pilot project in the summer 2009 – Library Resources for Summer Online Faculty
Course Content

- Chapters include:
  - Getting Started: Library Resources & Services Overview
  - A to Z eJournal Locator - Functionalities and Features
  - Refworks Bibliographic Management Tool
  - Web of Science: Cited Reference Search & Citation Mapping
  - Subject-specific Databases (based on disciplines)
Getting Started: Overview of the Tarver Library Resources and Services
Services for Faculty including: Interlibrary Loan, Reserves, Subject Guides/Librarians, Databases, Online Journals, Print Catalog, and Research Instruction

A to Z eJournal Locator - Functionalities and Features
The A to Z eJournal Locator is an excellent supplementary (secondary) research tool, especially when working with a large body of literature. It offers an alphabetical index of library electronic journals searchable by title and/or subject and allows you to quickly locate a title in electronic format, along with providing coverage information from different vendors with embargo details. The index is browsable by dates and issue numbers.

Refworks Bibliographic Management Tool
RefWorks is a Web-based bibliography and database manager that allows you to create your own personal database by importing references from text files or online databases. You can use these references in writing papers and automatically format the paper and generate your bibliography in seconds.

Web of Science: Cited Reference Search & Citation Mapping
This module focuses on the cited reference search feature to help faculty track down the sources, as well as the number of citations, for their publications. It also explains how to create citation alerts if an article is referenced in Web of Science.

Citation Mapping is a powerful new tool that allows you to visualize citation connections at a glance, understand the meaning of a cited reference search, and discover an article’s wider citation relationships.

Subject-specific Databases
Faculty will select one topic from the following subject areas: Business & Government Documents, Sciences, and Liberal Arts.

Feedback
Please take a few minutes to help us to improve our workshop by completing this short survey.
Future Developments

- Build on Summer Online project experience
- Offer a variety of library workshops via Blackboard
- Focus on undergraduate students
- Offer database-specific workshops during spring 2010
Questions