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Two Heads Are Better Than One: Librarian-Faculty Collaboration to Support Student Topic Development

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How do **steroids** affect your body? What is the impact of media on **body image**? How
What impacts would legal **marijuana** have on the United States? What are the reasons
The consequences of fracking in the US? What can be done about **guns** and control in
Childhood **obesity** is a growing **problem**, what can be done about it? What are the
What are the pros and cons of school uniforms? Is **global warming** real? What impact do
What are the pros and cons of school uniforms? Is **global warming** real? What impact do
regarding **immigration**? Should school lunches be healthier? What impact does social

Librarian-Faculty Collaboration to Support First-Year Student Topic Development

*Lindy Scripps-Hoekstra
Grand Valley State University*

First-Year Research: Topic Development

66% said defining a topic is the most difficult part of research

33% were uncertain whether selected topics met instructor approval

*“For the most part, we found first-term freshmen were **relieved** to be free of rigid high school curricula. They were **eager** to dive into deeper research projects on topics that **interested them**.*

*And yet, at the same time, they were **overwhelmed** at the thought of sorting through the amount of information available to them in college.”*

Writing 150 Students: Topic Approval

Writing professor approves topics before students start on papers

Classroom instruction on techniques to narrow broad topics

The problem...

Students emailed the professor with their tentative topics for approval

4 sections of 30 students....

Librarian would be out of the loop

Students out of the loop

A Tech Solution



Google Sheets provides asynchronous online support

Students post their potential research questions for feedback

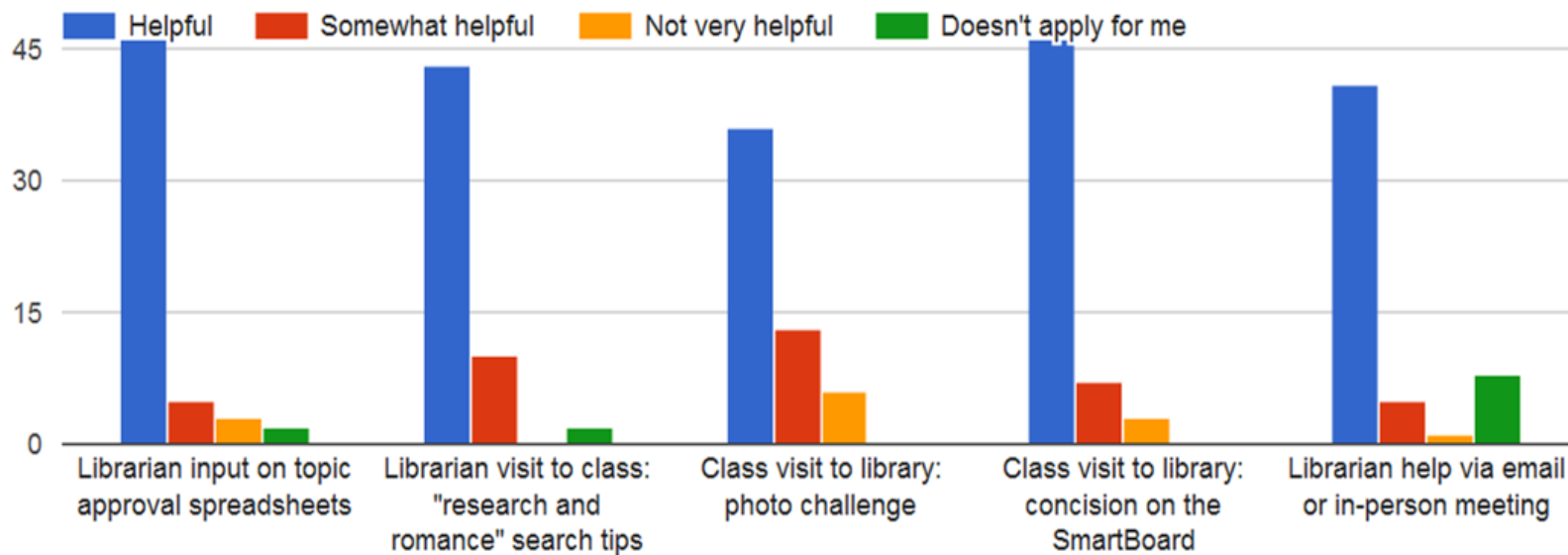
Students may also post links to preliminary research they've found

Librarian has a head start before research instruction session

A	B	C	D	E	F
NAME	PROBLEM SOLUTION CENTRAL RESEARCH QUESTION (CRQ)	RESEARCH FOUND/LINKS	PROFESSOR WHITE'S SUGGESTIONS	LINDY the LIBRARIAN'S SUGGESTIONS	APPROVAL
B. B.	College males are more susceptible to suicide than females. Nearly four times more likely. Can we find a solution to such a large problem?	http://search.proquest.com/docview	This will work! Good. I know you worked to refine this.	Try to avoid "yes or no" research questions, like the first one you listed. I like the second part of your CRQ, it's more complex. Your article is a great start and focuses on male students— perhaps you could narrow your CRQ to focus on male college students.	Yes
C.B.	The threat of the invasive sea lampreys to Lake Michigan's ecosystem	http://dnr.wi.gov/orq/caer/ce/eeek/cr	Caitlyn, you can do an invasive species if you pick just one. What invasive species would you like to explore?		Yes
J. B.	College athletes being paid.	http://www.istor.org/stable/4319469	This can be a difficult topic to take on but I will approve it if you are up for the challenge. You really need to do a great deal of research for this topic.	Looks like you found a great article to start with! Make sure to check out the sources that this author referenced in their bibliography, there might be a couple in that list that will also work for you.	Yes
K. B.	The difficulty of placing teenagers in the system as a Social Worker- ways to make the process easy and fair for older children placed in homes/in a broken family. (I know this is very broad but I want to touch on some of the difficulties older children experience in the system as opposed to younger children. As a social work major, I would like to propose ways to make this process easier and fairer...)	I've been touching in on a lot of these sources in the past few days... I will use these sources to compare ages of children in the system http://gvsu.summon.serialssolution		UPDATE– It sounds like you're heading in the right direction! Now that you know you're focusing on an issue in social work, I would recommend searching within those specific databases for more relevant results. Social Services Abstracts and Social Work Abstracts would be a great to search.	Yes
A. D.	Negative effects on children with military parents		This sounds interesting. I think I can let you go with this. You may want to look at psychological effects.		Yes
A. F.	Early elementary physical education programs versus child obesity rate. Is the intensity of PE class enough to keep kids healthy?		I will approve this topic but I am not sure what the research demonstrates.	Be sure to check out our education databases for studies on this topic. ERIC and Education Research Complete would be most helpful.	Yes
	The correlation between carpal tunnel and		This will be interesting because you can certainly tie in your experience with oboe,	It looks like there is a fair amount of published research on carpal tunnel in instrumentalists. You'll probably want to read up further on the	

Student Responses

Students asked to rank helpfulness of library instruction throughout the semester



Thanks!

Questions?