

Georgia Southern University

## Digital Commons@Georgia Southern

---

Georgia International Conference on  
Information Literacy

2020 Conference Archive

---

Feb 21st, 1:45 PM - 3:00 PM

### We Got This: Instruction Training for Four New Librarians with Four Different Backgrounds

John Siegel

University of South Carolina - Upstate, jsiegel2@uscupstate.edu

Sara DeSantis

University of South Carolina - Upstate, sarabd@uscupstate.edu

Erika Montgomery

University of South Carolina - Upstate, ERIKAM@USCUPSTATE.EDU

Allison Read

University of South Carolina - Upstate, READA@USCUPSTATE.EDU

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/gaintlit>



Part of the [Curriculum and Instruction Commons](#), and the [Information Literacy Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Siegel, John; DeSantis, Sara; Montgomery, Erika; and Read, Allison, "We Got This: Instruction Training for Four New Librarians with Four Different Backgrounds" (2020). *Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy*. 41.

<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/gaintlit/2020/2020/41>

This presentation (open access) is brought to you for free and open access by the Conferences & Events at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu).

## We Got This!

### Instruction Training for Four New Librarians with Four Different Backgrounds

John Siegel, Sara DeSantis,  
Erika Montgomery, and Allison Read

# University of South Carolina Upstate

Location: **Spartanburg, SC**

Founded: **1967**

Faculty: **235 Full-Time, 220 Adjunct**

Students: **~6,000 Head Count**

**Regional comprehensive**

USC Upstate Library

- **12 Librarians, 13 Full-Time Staff**



Source: Wood and Partners (USC Upstate)

# Instruction Program at a Glance 2018-2019

**Total Number of Sessions: 241**

**Number of Students: 3,966**

191 full-period instruction sessions covering a variety of library resources

18 librarian-assisted work periods for various courses

12 partial-periods focusing on one or two library resources

6 sessions for non-course related orientations (i.e. Writing Center)

5 other course support services (e.g., online, collaborative assignment, LibGuide)

2 sections of for-credit information literacy course (3 credit hours)

**~50 sections of English 101 and 102 → Fall/Spring**

**~35 sections of First-Year Experience → Fall**

# Chain of Events

2 librarians moved on to  
“greener pastures”

+1 librarian promoted  
to Coordinator of  
Reference

+1 staff vacancy turned  
into librarian position

## **The Sum of It All**

4 open slots for Reference and Research Librarians

# **Librarian Backgrounds & Preparation**

Oh Sh--  
(Sugar)

# Timeline

December 2018 – February 2019	→	Search
February – March 2019	→	You're Hired!
April 2019	→	Start Date
April-December 2019	→	Training

# Training Program

## April-December 2019

- Meeting weekly (initially), then bi-weekly  
→ Readings, videos, discussion

Topics→information literacy basics, learning objectives and Bloom's Taxonomy, classroom management, time management, the unexpected

- Shadow other instruction librarians
- Assist students 1-on-1 during research workdays for Composition (first-year writing) courses

# Training Program

## April-December 2019

- 1 hr. Resource Presentation (in pairs)
  - Lesson plan – including interactive activity
  - LibGuide/Research Guide, plus handout
    - Assessment (pre and post)
    - Anonymous feedback form
  - Librarian reflection worksheet
- First-Year Experience Mini-Presentations (25 min)
  - 5-7 sections – arrange in their classrooms
  - Overview of library and interactive activity
  - “Get to Know Your Librarian”

# Reflections on Training

# Reflections on Training

# Spring 2020

- Paired with another librarian and either co-teaching or solo teaching several sections of Composition (first-year writing courses)
  - Use standard faculty and student feedback form; debrief
- Subject liaison responsibilities
- Assist with for-credit information literacy course redesign and activities

# Lessons from the Coordinator of Information Literacy

- Do not underestimate time commitment
- Avoid too many cooks in the kitchen
- Involve trainees / have them contribute to planning, etc.
- Naysayers (AKA “When I started, I just had to figure it out.”)
- Let them make mistakes & do not be overprotective
- New to instruction does not mean totally inexperienced
- Remember you were once in their shoes
- Humor is key and patience is a virtue

If all else fails, just call it a “pilot”

# Got Questions?

# Thank You!

John Siegel  
JSIEGEL2@uscupstate.edu

Sara DeSantis  
SARABD@uscupstate.edu

Erika Montgomery  
ERIKAM@uscupstate.edu

Allison Read  
READA@uscupstate.edu