

On Board from the Beginning: A Successful Library Partnership with A Distance Learning PhD Program

Anne Marie Casey, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Increasingly, distance education is the norm in institutions of higher education. In the majority of cases, colleges and universities develop distance programs and then the library figures out how best to serve these new populations. This approach has worked well enough but librarians often express the opinion that services and resources would be better if they had been in on the planning from the beginning. Most librarians would agree that new distance education programs that include a library presence from the development of the idea to the implementation of the classes offer the library an advantage in providing the most essential resources and services. This presentation will describe the development of a distance education PhD program that included a librarian in the planning from the start. Beginning its fifth year, the PhD in Aviation Science at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) considers the library an integral part of its success. The presentation will cover funding, ongoing library participation, student and faculty feedback and tips for involvement in planning. As a provider of distance library services for over 40 years, ERAU considers this partnership to be one of its greatest successes and a potential model for others.

From Grassroots to Tree Tops: How One Library Has Become Embedded in Online Learning

Sarah J. Hammill, Florida International University

This presentation will show how a grassroots initiative has budded into the Florida International University (FIU) Libraries being an instrumental part of online learning. It will describe some of the marketing and outreach efforts that have been successful and share ideas on how to build alliances and networks with online faculty and students. Along with outreach efforts, the presentation will demonstrate some of the successful tools used to meet the needs of online students. Some of these tools include becoming embedded in courses, building course and program specific LibGuides, using Adobe Connect to reach students, creating simple YouTube videos, and creating more professional videos with FIU Online. The presentation will conclude with sharing some tips on how to keep the workload manageable when distance-learning programs are growing at the same time as library budgets and resources are shrinking.

Zombies Online! Using Webinar Software for Online Library Orientations

Jennifer Gregor, St. Petersburg College

In the fall of 2013, St. Petersburg College was invaded by zombies! In a new initiative to reach every Composition I course with a library orientation in the first three weeks of class, librarians and writing tutors became survivors of the zombie apocalypse. Using a fun theme to keep students' attention and a fast-paced, 20 minute, interactive presentation, librarians engaged students and demonstrated the need for library resources. This was a straightforward rollout plan for face-to-face classes, but what about all of the online sections? Online students need a library orientation, too! In a pilot project, Adobe Connect was chosen to provide online, real-time webinars for students in online Composition I classes. This presentation will share how the face-to-face curriculum was adapted for webinar delivery; the buy-in and training process for librarians; the roll-out to online classes; feedback and response from students and faculty; the philosophy and best practices used for the webinars; and future plans beyond the pilot.

Creating and Using Learning Objects to Enhance Distance Reference and Instruction Services

Susan Ariew & Maryellen Allen, University of South Florida

The USF Tampa Library has been designing and developing learning objects to enhance instruction and reference since YouTube came into its own in 2006. Since then, the need for additional expertise in creating quality, course embedded or web-based learning objects prompted a shift in library priorities and leadership. In 2012 the USF Library hired an Assistant Director for Instruction and a Blended Librarian to provide a new direction for the instruction program: One that would emphasize online learning models and technologies. The Assistant Director for Instruction lead efforts to better coordinate instruction and expand faculty use of online instructional resources, while the Blended Librarian built digital learning objects for use in reference and instruction. Online and distance learners often rely upon digital learning objects to acquire basic information literacy skills and gain access to online reference services. Maryellen Allen, Assistant Director for Instruction and Susan Ariew, Education Librarian will discuss characteristics of effective learning objects, classify types of instructional learning objects, illustrate examples of learning objects that can instruct online and distance learners, and offer tips on how to get started creating and using learning objects.

Distance Learning on Demand: Creating a Student-Friendly Platform for Instructional Library Videos

Michelle Keba, Jamie Segno, and Michael Schofield, Nova Southeastern University

Instructional library videos are an essential component of distance librarianship and serve as invaluable resources for students that are not available to partake in synchronous library training. However, the need to organize and routinely update these videos can become a rather daunting challenge, especially when facing obstacles such as loss of original video files, decentralized access points, and viewing incompatibilities among different browsers, operating systems, and mobile devices. Join us to learn how an Instructional, Reference, and Web Services librarian worked together to assess and optimize their library's current instructional videos in order to create a mobile-first video platform from the ground up. The presenters will describe how they overcome issues regarding usability, accessibility, incompatibility, and project management in order to provide their distance students with on demand library instruction.