Strengthening the Foundation: Preparing Students for College-Level Research
RIT 2/26/2015

Many thanks to Beth Puckett for taking notes in the early session and sharing them with us!

Video, Livonia HS Graduates talk about their first year of college experience

- College library was overwhelming at first
- Nice to have more databases/sources available
- Intimidating – number of books, call numbers but felt they were pretty prepared to navigate the library
- HS senior year research project at Geneseo – didn’t like it at the time, but see the value now – could have even been a longer paper 10 instead of 7
- Does college require library orientation – most do not
- What types of research assignments did you have in college? Used databases more than books – easier to use and cite; used items in the library, did not take out; signed out library books; never took out a book

College Librarian Panel Discussion

Faculty Survey – 1st year students, what do you see as students’ strengths in researching and writing papers/lab report? (could get specific slides from presenters for more detail)

- student attitude
- Internet
- Topic formation
- Writing competency
- citing

Frustrations among faculty:

- Writing is Formulaic
- Making and supporting claims
- Going beyond Google
- Citations – don’t understand principles behind intellectual property

Michelle Price – SJFC

Instruction takes place in the lab – librarian goes into the lab

Flipping instruction

CSE Style
Vocab – database, vendor, cite, full text etc.
Guided worksheet to learn their database
Then they teach the rest of the class their database & they compare similarities about databases
Students then have to do something with the database – research
Then give feedback to librarian about why they used the database

Michelle Costello – SUNY Geneseo
Required course – hope that all use library at some point during the course
Faculty must bring students into library at least once
Use a variety of sources for assignments
Opinion paper – back it up with research
Students don’t know how to bring outside sources into their papers – reasons and how to
Difference between scholarly and popular/newspaper articles – purpose of using each type

Primary sources project
Find primary sources on a topic
Librarian gives feedback on topic
More students revisit her for this project

Research on their HS Project -
Oral history, primary sources, interview, research

Emily Hart – Hobart & William Smith Colleges
Sciences/Environmental Studies
1st Year Seminar Course but not all Freshman are required to take
Faculty rotate through
Professors choose any topic they want so a lot of variety
Hot topic – sense of place
Understand Geneva, Finger Lakes, environment
See about ½ the Freshman

Concepts covered
databases vs. website/google
Peer reviewed required component
citations
ILL
Subject guides
Why is it important to use multiple databases in research?
30 page paper in groups of 4 over the course of the semester
Create a proposal: Geneva doing an Olympic bid for the 2024 Olympics

Social Explorer – census data
Historical Newspapers

Student reflection/challenges – large scope, hard to narrow/focus, developing research questions, knowing where to go to find information, bogged down in finding the facts, trying to find their spin on their proposal

Jennifer Kegler – Brockport
Intro to college class – trip to library but no assignment
English 112 (101) – try to teach research, but only about half come

Intro to Archeology class
Works with the professor, taught every semester
Shows library webpage and how to get help
Guides available for each department
Summon (new to Brockport) Federated search – see that they have trouble narrowing topics or finding enough on a topic
Need help finding and identifying scholarly sources (6-7 scholarly sources required)
Scholarly vs. popular journals
Learn how to track down studies that are mentioned in articles
Look up by citation
ILL
Watch out for editorials and book reviews
JStor, Academic One-File*, Academic Search Complete, EBSCO, Science Direct
MLA, APA etc. – they can use whatever they are comfortable with

Eileen Daly-Boas – U of R
Classics 209 class (typically sophomores)
10-12 page research paper
Professor and librarian teach together
Picking out the BEST sources – find the 6 BEST
Defend why you choose the source
Who is citing who? Is it still relevant?
Discover that research is done in other countries/languages – explore those databases

Sue Cardinal – U of R
Chemistry
2 library sessions to introduce them to useful tools
Chemistry databases
Most had never retrieved articles from chemistry databases, so new to them
Librarians support them through the process of finding an article – both print and electronic
Database comparison exercise
Look at 4 scenarios and decide which database works best for the scenarios

Alice Wilson – MCC
English 101
Persuasive Essay – found it challenging to pick a topic they were engaged in, which didn’t help with inquiry
Trouble focusing broad topics to something narrower
EDS Discovery Tool
Academic Search Complete
Opposing Viewpoints – background knowledge on topics
Help finding the RIGHT resource, not just any resource
Teach critical thinking skills for when they don’t have access to databases
Touch on ILL but not really used much at this level
MLA instruction

Q/A for Panel
LibGuide – what is it and how is it used?
Professors use it or just librarians?
Basically like a pathfinder
College students do better if they ask for help, so a libguide that directs them to ASK!

Citations – do they write from scratch or use tools?
Diana Hacker and Zotero – google Brockport Zotero for a guide on how to use Zotero
Ask students how they keep track of citations – Zotero fan – citation management
Philosophical opinions on citations – some professors want to show it themselves
Students may be asked to do it by hand
Mendalay is another one to consider using

How do you do Research Interview?
One on one consultation, make appointments or walk in times
Individual Interactions – weekly on-line journals where questions can be asked and answered
What role do ebooks have for research?
Reference collection is flipping to ebooks
Hoppy Trust – out of copyright materials
Which vendors, how many vendors etc?
ebrary, EBL (Proquest)
time limits can cause a problem
students tend to prefer print at this point
often don’t know they are in an ebook – federated searching
just want access to valuable resources
students don’t know how to read a book and that they don’t have to read the whole book
ebooks use is increasing at the college level

Federated Searches?
How can students be prepared for federated searching if HS doesn’t have federated searching?
Search on Amazon, go to Brockport’s federated search to try
Universal Search in Follett – it is a federated search, but isn’t fully developed yet
Access Card – through RRLC – allows them to have access to colleges (AP/Honors classes)

Are college students prepared to do research in non-humanities fields?
Yes, they seem prepared. In fact, the topics lend themselves to research.

Dewey vs. LOC - How do we help students transfer?
Call numbers – transferable skills – not much of an issue other than larger scale
Lack of willingness to try is more of an issue
YouTube videos on this

Bring HS students to college libraries – they are welcome, spend a day!

Small Group Discussions