

RESEARCH LIBRARY VIRTUAL RESOURCES & INSTRUCTIONAL INITIATIVES

SUBTOPIC: SPECIALLY ASSIGNED LIBRARIANS

The Virtual Resources and Instructional Initiatives survey produced 230 instances of special or noteworthy projects being supported in ARL libraries. A comprehensive PDF file of these projects can be found at <http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/vriicompletesurvey.pdf>, arranged alphabetically by institution.

In order to assist readers with focused interests, 18 “subtopics” have been assigned that group only those survey responses that relate in whole or in part to that topic. This report contains survey responses that touch on the subtopic that is identified above.

For readers who would extract information not covered by the subtopics, key word searching can be applied to the comprehensive list. For instance, there is no subtopic specifically for “Camtasia,” instances of which appear across several pre-set searches. A search of the word will reveal all occurrences.

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UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY

Class librarian.

Our “Class Librarian Program” pairs each entering undergraduate class (e.g., class of 2009) with a reference librarian who serves the class until graduation. The class librarian maintains a webpage with class-specific information, and sends regular emails to all students in the class.

<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/classlibrarians/>

Goals:

- Connecting upperclassmen with the library when they begin research papers and senior theses.
- Reducing undergraduates’ “library anxiety”.

Assessment:

NA

CORNELL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Digital image instruction assistant. (Fine Arts Library)

Over the past 5 or 6 years many libraries have assumed responsibility for the funding of digital image databases, i.e. ArtStor, CAMIO, Scholar’s Resource, and more. With ownership comes a sense of responsibility to support an appropriate level of use of these collections. In 2006 an experimental and temporary position was created titled Digital Image Instruction Assistant. This position is collaboratively supported and managed by the Fine Arts Library and a departmental image repository, traditionally known as the “slide library.” The main focus of the position is to support faculty users as they make the transition from analog to digital images, for use in the classroom. These resources require sophisticated searching, downloading and manipulation skills in order to create high resolution and high impact classroom presentations. These are not skill sets that can be conveyed during a typical reference transaction at the library, at a reference desk. Therefore, the individual in this position is considered a mobile unit, often meeting with a faculty member in his or her office. During the first 18 months of this trial position, more than 150 one-on-one faculty consultations, averaging 70 minutes each, have occurred. It’s a pleasure to note that this new service has been very well received by the faculty. When not conducting digital image coaching sessions, this new staff member adds content to an image instruction blog (see below).

<http://imageinstruct.library.cornell.edu/>

Goals:

- Increase use of digital image resources.
- Enable faculty to use digital resources in the classroom.
- Create a blog to enhance awareness of digital image resources, either freely available or provided by the library through subscriptions.

Assessment:

We have been so busy providing this new service we have not yet officially measured its success. We do have anecdotal evidence that it is working in the form of a thick folder full of thank you notes from a number of faculty members. As well, ArtStor tracks use statistics. Cornell's use of ArtStor is double that of its peer institutions. We contribute this rate to the success of this outreach and instruction effort.

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES**Librarian supports undergraduate journal staff.**

The Science and Engineering Liaison serves as an advisor to undergraduate research journals. Following an instruction session for editors and writers for Triple Helix on choosing scholarly reference sources and writing with more style, she was asked for similar assistance from the editors of Epidemic Proportions. She continues to provide instruction sessions and to copy-edit the articles. She also created a web page with links to style guides and other resources.

Goals:

NA

Assessment:

We have not conducted a formal assessment, but consider the librarian's involvement a success as she is sought out by the members of these groups.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES OF NOTRE DAME

Developed First Year Experience Librarian.

Among other initiatives, began “embedded librarian” who provides reference services from the Coleman-Morse Center for First Year of Studies, rather than a traditional library service desk.

<http://www.library.nd.edu/fys/fye.html>

Goals:

- Develop a means to deliver the outcomes to the students.
- Provide different image of librarians.
- Explore popular social networking space.
- Collaborate with University’s Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning.

Assessment:

We haven’t yet because we’re still investigating the best way of providing this assessment.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON LIBRARIES

Blog for clinical support and quick solutions to patient care questions. (Health Sciences Libraries)

Moveable Type, open source blog software chosen by the Health Sciences Libraries at the University of Washington, has provided the perfect forum to support patient care decisions and resident teaching by the University of Washington Medicine Residents. Resident Report occurs 4 times weekly and is attended by residents, faculty members, medical students and a clinical librarian to discuss patients who have been admitted the previous night to University of Washington Medical Center (UWMC), a 400 bed tertiary care hospital in Seattle, Washington. Sherry Dodson, Clinical Librarian, listens for patient care questions at Resident Report, quickly searches PubMed, and posts relevant citations to the blog to answer those questions. Often within minutes of posing the questions, residents can find citations to support their patient care decisions. The blog is easily searchable and the 500+ blog entries are arranged by categories such as infectious diseases, pulmonary diseases, etc. and archived by date. The Movable Type Personal Publishing software is easy to use and provides a sharing point or living searchable archive accessible to the residents at all of their rotations or in their clinics. Although the UW Health Sciences Libraries provide a huge network of electronic resources on the UW HealthLinks web site, a clinical librarian can provide a highly valued service by pinpointing the most recent, evidence-based articles to support patient care. An additional blog supports case presentations by the Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine department’s fellows at their weekly Chest Conference. Nurses on one of UWMC’s inpatient units are also considering the use of a new blog to support their upcoming journal club.

Goals:

See above

Assessment:

NA

YALE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Medical Library Liaison and Personal Librarian Program. (Cushing/Whitney Medical Library)

The Cushing/Whitney Medical Library offers a personal librarian program created to assist medical students during their four years at medical school. The program matches a librarian to each student, providing a personal contact for research and library-related questions. A personal librarian is able to recommend resources best suited for individual research needs, instruct students in new technologies and resources, and guide students to specific resources as their research and learning needs change throughout their medical education.

Goal / Assessment:

Under development/revision.
