THROUGH A PANDEMIC AND BEYOND

Reaching First-Year Students Wherever They Are

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June 24, 2021
University of Pittsburgh introduced the Hyflex model at all five campuses

Librarians working from home

Majority of our Greensburg campus students preferred learning online

How do we engage meaningfully with first-year students in the online environment?
First Year Group Work

Locating Articles in Databases
Cornerstone/Seminar @ Millstein Library
library.pitt.edu

Work with your group to answer these questions about your assigned database.

1. Write a brief description of the database. (Hint: look at the short description given on the A-Z Databases page to answer this question).

2. Now begin a search for articles.


4. Add one of your own questions to the search.

Using PittCat to Find Books
Cornerstone/Seminar @ Millstein Library
library.pitt.edu

So many books – how can you get the ones you really need? Work with your group to answer these questions:

1. Type “food” into the PittCat search.

2. Now limit your results by date.

3. In the search box, type “Food & Nutrition”.

4. Locate one of each entry:

Developing Your Research Topic
Cornerstone/Seminar @ Millstein Library

General Research Topic is Food & Nutrition

1. As with most topics, there are many areas that could be researched: scientific, legal, social, economic, political… With your group, talk about your interests and decide on keywords, and alternatives (synonyms) to those keywords, to narrow down this topic.

Examples: GMO – Genetically Modified Organism

Keyword 1: Alternative Keyword 1:

Keyword 2: Alternative Keyword 2:
Just Keep Swimming

2020’s quick pivot to online work was followed by:

- University-wide switch to Canvas from Blackboard
- Library system upgrade to Alma/Primo
- Redesign of all Pitt library websites

To help instructors adjust, we asked for only one session with each first-year seminar section plus...
Online Tutorials to the Rescue

LibWizard tutorials created for Canvas (LMS) module

- Shared via Canvas Commons
- Students asked to complete before their session with librarians
- Citation Exercise and Keyword Exercise

We’ll continue at least one of these in the fall

- Avoids awkward/unknown social distancing group work situation
- Provides more time for answering questions or discussion
- Instructors approved: "I really like that there are pre-class activities."
First Year Flipped Tutorials

Pitt-Greensburg Understanding Citations

Below are some examples of MLA style citations. Note: Some instructors may require access dates for websites or other pieces of information. Please check with your instructor if you have any questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material Type</th>
<th>Works Cited</th>
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What is a Citation and Why Should You Use Them?

Why Cite Sources?
As a student, citing is important because it shows your reader (or professor) that you have invested time in learning what has already been learned and thought about the topic before offering your own perspective. It is the practice of giving credit to the sources that inform your work. Here are all the good reasons for citing.

To Avoid Plagiarism & Maintain Academic Integrity
Misrepresenting your academic achievements by not giving credit to others indicates a lack of academic integrity. This is looked down upon by the scholarly community, and for university students, results in serious consequences.

To Acknowledge the Work of Others
One major purpose of citations is to simply provide credit where it is due. When you provide accurate citations, you are acknowledging both the hard work that has gone into producing research and the person(s) who performed that research.

To Provide Credibility to Your Work & to Place Your Work in Context
Providing accurate citations puts your work and ideas into an academic context. They tell your reader that you’ve done your research and know what others have said about your topic. Not only do citations provide...
Welcome to the Library

-- at Home!

- Photo tour of the library part of online tutorial
- Books & DVDs: No-contact pickup and ship to home
- Outreach at (virtual) campus events
  - Participated in panel discussions
  - Attended meetings and student presentations
- Reference help available:
  - Consultations scheduled online
  - Librarians staffed a chat for immediate questions, but discontinued
  - Staff onsite contacted librarians to work with patrons as needed
Making Connections Online

- **Canvas Modules**
- **LibGuides LTI for Canvas**
  - Default page set up with IT department
  - Class-specific guide or general research guide for our campus
- **Research help & appointments with librarians**
  - LibCal integration with Zoom
  - Google, Microsoft alternatives
  - Zoom office hours
These Unprecedented Times

In-person instruction will return in the fall, but it’s unknown what (if any) restrictions will be in place.

We’re planning anyway! There are lots of considerations...
Where Can We... Meet with Students?

Research Collaboratory room is small

- Ventilation is not great
- Seating may be too close
The Plan: Utilize Other Spaces

- Identify other potential meeting locations, such as a small computer lab, group study rooms and the former library classroom

- Continue offering virtual consultations

- Consider meeting outdoors or in other locations on campus
Where Can We... Teach First-Year Seminar?

Pandemic impact felt in the library classroom

- It’s too small
- The ventilation is problematic
- In a perfect world, we would create a new space in time for fall
- Getting these students in the library is a top priority
The Plan: Be Flexible!

- Teach one or both sessions in the students’ classroom
- Visit the library for a tour for part of the second session
- Asynchronous tutorials will help us make the most of class time!

The hope is a swing space will come together before the end of August.
Where Can We...
Reach Second Year Students New to Campus?

- Many second-year students were not on campus last year
- They won’t be visiting the library for first-year seminar because they have already taken that class
- They are not "first year" students but this will be their first semester on campus
The Plan: Step Up Outreach!

- Dining Hall: Messaging on digital screens
- Residence Halls: Partner with RAs on tear-strip fliers
- Social Media: Build following with student takeovers & more
Questions?

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