

THROUGH A PANDEMIC AND BEYOND

Still Reaching First-Year Students Wherever They Are

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RUSA Virtual Forum - First Year Experience Interest Group

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The Future is Now.

When we presented in 2021, we had quite a few challenges ahead of us...

- Where can we safely meet with students?
- Where can we teach our First-Year Seminar classes?
- What practices from online reference/teaching should continue?
- How can we reach second-year students after their first year was mostly online?

2021 slides: <http://d-scholarship.pitt.edu/41357/>

Where Can We... Meet with Students?

Research Collaboratory room is small

- Ventilation is not great
- Seating may be too close
- Door is off small, high-traffic hallway with bottle filler and restrooms



Where we are meeting students

- Using our digital media lab whenever it is not in use
- Rarely, we will meet in another space in the library
- Virtual consultations are an option as well as in-person

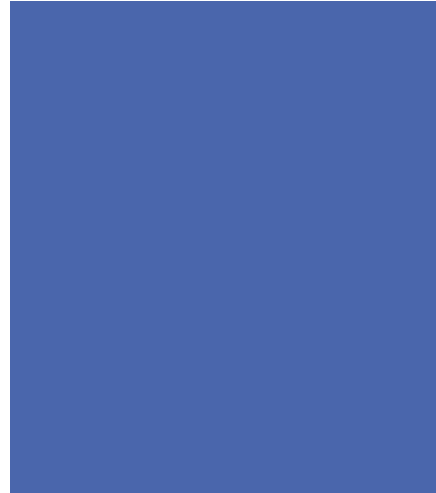


Where Can We... Teach First-Year Seminar?



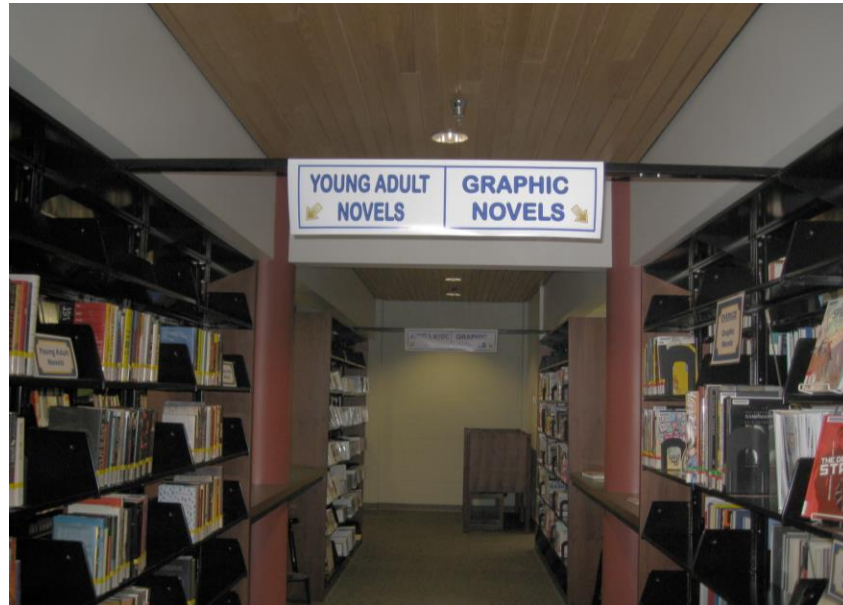
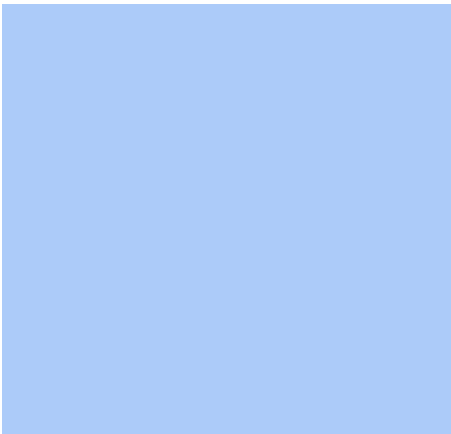
Major impact on library classroom

- The room always seemed too small.
- Ventilation has been problematic and unreliable.
- In a perfect world, a new space would be created for fall 2021.
- Getting first-year seminar students in the library is a top priority.



Possibility: Computer lab

- Wanted to convert this space
- Fewer computers needed in this lab
- Concerns: Shelving in the way, noise, elevator sounds





- Large screen display is easier to view
- Area opens to main library
- Space has more ventilation
- Removing shelves (as carpeting shows) provided more room

Where we teach now: The computer lab space was reconfigured quickly!

Mindful of contact:

- Asynchronous tutorials completed before class
- Photo safari activity was updated to replace group tours
- Activity materials are laminated for cleaning and re-use



Hush screen partitions from Versare are used for sound control.

How Can We...

Reach Second-Year Students New to Campus?

Many current second-year students were not on campus in 2020-21

They did not visit the library for first-year seminar sessions because their classes were online.

They are not "first-year" students, but 2021 was their first semester with more in-person experiences on campus.

T.EDU/ URG
T.EDU/ IURG
T.EDU/ URG
T.EDU/ URG
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T.EDU/ IURG
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T.EDU/ IURG

- Find peer-reviewed articles and other sources for assignments
- Evaluate sources you've found
- Refine a topic and keywords

Schedule your in-person or online
consultation at:
library.pitt.edu/greensburg



- Residence Halls: Partner with RAs on tear-strip flyers
- Social Media: Build following with student takeovers & more
- Collection: Added games, coloring books and other stress-relieving activities
- Dining Hall: Messaging on digital screens

[illegible]

Stop in and browse – we may have your favorites!
library.pitt.edu/greensburg



What's next? Looking ahead...

- Tutorials and LTI (embedded LibGuide links)
 - LibGuides traffic is up – access 24/7 to tips and resources
- Screen / Hovercam
- Amplifier use when requested
- Elevator noise



How are you navigating...

- Food / drink protocol
- What to do when masks no longer required



Questions?

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