Embedded Librarianship in Distance Education: Tech Tools to Enhance Engagement and Outcomes

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Introduction

The problem:
• Students struggle with research and APA formatting on subjective, graded assignments
One solution:
• Embedded librarian and library resources
• Collaboration with content area instructors
What’s an Embedded Librarian and how will this help?
• An embedded librarian is a librarian that is integrated into an online class or program for a period of time to support the students in their research process.
Why use an embedded librarian?
Embedded librarianship is a distinctive innovation that moves the librarians out of libraries and creates a new model of library and information work. It emphasizes the importance of forming a strong working relationship between the librarian and a group or team of people who need the librarian’s information expertise.
(Shumaker, 2012, p. 4)

Identifying What We Wanted To Do and the Tools to Accomplish Our Objectives

Embed librarian and specific resources into:
• Into specific assignments
• Into specific programs
• Into specific Digital Study Units
What courses and Programs do we want to embed in?
• Courses and Programs were chosen by review of grades on subjective writing and research assignments
• SCI - Biology - Course: The beginning but not the end.

What tools do we want to use?

What is it used for?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tech tool</th>
<th>What is it used for?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Scheduler</td>
<td>Student use scheduling appointments with instructor and reference assistance with librarian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access My Library</td>
<td>Student use Access Library databases and articles from mobile devices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webinar</td>
<td>Webinar faculty and student use webinar conferencing platform</td>
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<td>Power Point</td>
<td>Faculty use to create webinars</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bibliographic generator</td>
<td>One of many taught to students to use to generate citations and references</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student use</td>
<td>Student use of authoritative online writing centers for citation and reference formatting as well as writing tips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student use</td>
<td>Faculty instruct students on use of bibliographic tools housed within Word</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We are always evaluating and considering new tools.

References


What did we learn?

We followed one cohort of students in Biology.
Using Spring Share CMS Statistics, Business Objects and GoToWebinar we tracked the following data for one cohort of students enrolled in our Veterinary Technician Program through Blue Pearl, in the Biology course:

1. Performance on objective exams pre-embedding and post-embedding in the Biology course (the course that has the embedded librarian and resources and for the longest period of time - summer 2016).
2. Libguide usage in the Penn Foster Virtual Library.
3. Attendance at and recording views of optional Bio Research webinars

<table>
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<tr>
<th>2016 Prior to embedding in Bio Course</th>
<th>2017 After embedding in Bio Course</th>
<th>2017 After launch of new library</th>
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<tr>
<td>70% students clicked on webinar link</td>
<td>372 students registered for the webinars</td>
<td>224 students attend the live sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106 students viewed the recordings</td>
<td>17 students use email, chat, and phone support</td>
<td>264 students viewed the recordings</td>
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3,704 students clicked on webinar link
372 students registered for the webinar
224 students attend the live sessions
264 students viewed the recordings

3References


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