Cultivating Future Scholars: A Cross-Campus Collaboration on an Original Research Project

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A Cross-Campus Collaboration on an Original Research Project

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Consultants as “Disciplinary Discourse Mediators”

- “Instruction librarians [and other consultants]...are positioned as simultaneous insiders and outsiders in a discipline; this in-between position places librarians well to facilitate students' awareness and understanding of disciplinary genres” (Simmons, 2005, p. 305).

Cultivating Future Scholars

- Students will:
  - Engage in original research
  - Apply skills learned in class
  - Become familiar with research design
  - Develop information, quantitative, and writing fluencies
Planning the Assignment...

- Staging of assignment
- Assignment description
- Sequencing of instruction with QRC, SSL, and WC
Planning the Peer Critique...

- Student Peer Critique:
  - Designed by the WC
  - Used by students to critique each other’s papers
    - Facilitates collaborative learning
    - Introduces students to peer review process
QRC/SSL Instruction

- Finding sources for lit review
  - Databases/sources for soc research
  - Finding current and applicable research
  - Using ICPSR’s “Related Literature”

- Finding/using data sets
  - Searching/Browsing ICPSR
  - Using ICPSR’s Description page
  - Using ICPSR’s Online Analysis
  - Downloading/analyzing data
Peer critiques
- Ways to critique effectively
- What to get out of being critiqued

Writing literature review
- How to synthesize articles
- Using hypotheses as organizational guide
QRC/WC Instruction

- Writing research report
  - Writing Consultant:
    - Introduction
    - Method
  - Quantitative Reasoning Consultant:
    - Results
    - Discussion
- Time for student questions/concerns
Individual Consultations

- **Social Sciences Librarian**
  - Finding/evaluating relevance of sources for lit review

- **Quantitative Reasoning Consultant**
  - Analyzing/interpreting data

- **Writing Consultant**
  - Writing/organizing research report
Future Improvements

- **Issue:**
  - Problems with using previously-collected data

- **Possible solutions:**
  - More upfront discussion of pros/cons of using previously-collected data
  - Pre-selecting data
Students will:
- Engage in original research
- Apply skills learned in class
- Become familiar with research design
- Develop information, quantitative, and writing fluencies
Engage in Original Research

- Students formulated hypotheses grounded in current literature.
- Students analyzed data to test hypotheses.
- Students wrote research reports to present findings of studies, relating their findings to current research.
Apply Skills Learned in Class

- Students chose a sociological topic.
- Students illustrated their understanding of social-scientific research design.
- Students analyzed data using SPSS.
- Students interpreted data.
Become Familiar with Research Design

- Students read research reports for literature review.
- Students reviewed method of data collection for data used.
- Students wrote research reports.
Develop Information, Quantitative, and Writing Fluencies

- Students used a variety of sources to search for prior studies on their topics.  
  - Assisted by Social Sciences Librarian

- Students analyzed and interpreted data.  
  - Assisted by Quantitative Reasoning Consultant

- Students wrote research proposals, literature reviews, and research reports.  
  - Assisted by Writing Consultant
In Conclusion...

- Students see similarities/differences between social science discourses
- Cultivating future scholars
- Consultants as “disciplinary discourse mediators”
- Interconnectivity of information, quantitative, and writing fluencies