Getting into the Workflow: Graduate Support Workshops

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Available at: https://works.bepress.com/anne_rauh/17/
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How We Got into the Flow

- Background
- Pilot
- Expansion
- Assessment & next steps

Student studying in Memorial Library, ca. 1960
UW-Madison Context

- Graduate & professional students: 11,756
- Master’s programs: 150
- Ph.D. programs: 108
- Professional degree programs: 26

UW-Madison Commencement, 2008
(photo from University Communications)
Where We Started

- Departmental orientations
- Individual consultations
- Drop-in workshops

Knapp Graduate Center, 1964
Goals

• Reach more graduate students
• Create a more interdisciplinary approach to our services and resources
• Meet the research and professional development needs of graduate students more effectively
• Leverage our partnership with the Graduate Student Collaborative
• Strengthen our relationship with the Graduate School
New Approach

• Focus on graduate students
  – Create workshops focused on the needs of graduate students
  – Market specifically to a graduate student audience

• Get into the flow
  – Build workshops around the life cycle of a graduate student
  – Focus on processes not tools

Graduate student studying in Memorial Library, 2009
New Approach

• Create a curriculum
  – Develop workshops that build on and relate to each other
  – Market workshops as a series

• Utilize staff expertise
  – Bring together generalist and subject specialists from across disciplines
  – Partner with experts outside of the library
Memorial Library

- Principal research library on campus for humanities and social sciences
- Single largest collection in Wisconsin
- Materials in 350+ languages
- Subject specialist librarians

Students studying in Memorial Library (photo from University Communications)
Memorial Library Pilot Planning

• Brainstormed ideas:
  – Schedule
  – Topics
  – Location
  – Promotion
  – Partners

• Looked for models

• Solicited input from graduate students
Memorial Library Pilot
Spring 2009

- Four workshops: Graduate Support Series
- 1-2 workshops a month
- Tuesdays, 5-6:30 pm
- Lecture room
- Generalist and subject specialist librarians
Pilot Workshops

• Re-purposed:
  – Keeping Current with the Literature
  – Publishing Your Research

• Newly developed:
  – Compiling Literature Review: Social Sciences
  – Compiling Literature Review: Humanities
Pilot Promotion

• Library promotion
  – posters
  – Web site
  – e-mails through liaison librarians

• Graduate Student Collaborative promotion
  – Advertised through e-mails, Web site
  – Took registrations
  – Provided evaluation forms
Expanding the Program

• From one library to three
  – Expanded to include Life Science library and Engineering library

• 4 workshops to 13
  – One almost every week of the semester
Managing the Expansion

• Librarians from the participating libraries met to:
  – Develop semester schedule
  – Brainstorm ideas for publicity
  – Share workshop content
  – Coordinate registration and assessment

• Working group formed
Publicity, Promotion, Partners

• On campus partners
  – Graduate School
  – Department liaisons

• External marketing
  – Flyers
  – Posters
  – Screen savers
  – Web
New Workshops

• Finding Datasets
• Prelim Prep and Strategies for Reading List Compilation
• Compiling Literature Reviews: Engineering and Technology
• Primary Sources
• Literature Review: Introduction
Re-purposed Workshops

• Compiling Literature Reviews: Social Sciences
• Keeping Current with the Literature
• Managing Your References: An Introduction to Citation Managers
• Publishing Your Research and Managing Your Copyright: Engineering and Technology
Success!

• ~27 registrants (average)
• 13.2 attendees (average)
• Strengthened relationships
• Outside partnerships key
Prior Knowledge

- Very little: 25%
- Some: 67%
- Almost everything: 9%
Other GSC Workshops Attended

- 68% attended 0 workshops
- 23% attended 1 workshop
- 5% attended 2 workshops
- 1% attended 3 workshops
- 1% attended 4 workshops
- 1% attended 4+ workshops
Learned of Session

- GSC: 55%
- E-mail: 20%
- Website: 18%
- Flyer/Poster: 16%
- GradLink@Madison: 10%
- Recommendation: 5%
- Other: 4%
- MGN: 2%

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Satisfaction Rate

- Very dissatisfied: 2%
- Dissatisfied: 6%
- Neutral: 4%
- Satisfied: 63%
- Very satisfied: 26%
Next Steps

- Future workshops
  - Input from staff
  - Input from students
- Stream line planning and administration
- Alternatives to face-to-face
- Expand partnerships
- Mapping out curriculum
Summary

• Approach
  – Focus on group
  – Get into the workflow
    • Process not tools
    • Interdisciplinary
  – Build a curriculum
  – Market as series

• Partnerships
  – Utilize staff expertise, staff work together
  – Partner with groups outside library
Questions??

Credits:
All photographs from University of Wisconsin Digital Collections unless otherwise stated.