Leveraging Campus Partnerships and Creating Library Advocates

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Achieving Collaborative Advantage: Leveraging Campus Partnerships and Creating Library Advocates

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Session overview

• Background

• Collaborative projects to-date

• Benefits

• Blueprint + tips
A firsthand account

The myriad settings....
The players....

DePaul University Library + FITS

Faculty Instructional Technology Services (FITS)

Faculty Instructional Technology Services (FITS) supports faculty in using technology to enhance teaching and learning by providing training, consultation, online course design and development, and end user support of technology applications.
Challenge: Varied geographies
Challenge: Different schedules
Challenge: Different cultures
Challenge: And some history....

“Collaboration also means consort ing with the enemy.”

-- Mintzberg

Photo from: http://www.berliner-mauer-gedenkstaette.de/en/
The start of a relationship....

Collaboration can be a pain in the ass.

--Mintzberg
Why is collaboration important?

Rather than solidify alternatives and lock us into either/or situations, collaboration allows us to avoid unnecessary compromise or domination, and to use integration and synthesis to invent third ways.

--Mary Parker Follett
(as paraphrased by Mintzberg, et. al)
Library widgets in D2L

We have created a series of library widgets that allow instructors to add library tools and content to their course pages in our learning management system - D2L.
Embedded online tutorials

Discuss the ethics associated with providing Human Papillomavirus vaccinations to children.

- ethics
- ethical
- ethically
- vaccinations
- vaccines
- vaccinating

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Human papillomavirus</th>
<th>children</th>
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The Mobile Learning Initiative started as a working group featuring members from different departments to explore mobile solutions and support faculty interested in integrating mobile into their courses.

**Mission**
MoLI identifies and recommends effective mobile learning solutions to DePaul faculty. In addition, MoLI evaluates select implemented solutions and contributes resultant research to the field of mobile learning.
Goals

• Make DePaul’s online learning materials as accessible as possible on mobile devices

• Use mobile devices to create new kinds of learning activities

• Provide resources to help instructors use mobile devices to enhance their teaching and their students’ learning

• Participate in global discussion on mobile learning
How mōLi Works

• Meets bi-weekly
• Initiatives and projects drive agenda
• Uses collaborative technologies
Accomplishments

http://teachingcommons.depaul.edu/
Future Projects

- Integrate library research guides into D2L
- Mobile library instruction
Benefits of Collaboration

Improved Departmental Communication

http://themetapicture.com/even-cooler/
Expanded Networks: Connectivism

Members reach across departments to gain access to new information and resources
Principles of Connectivism

- Learning and knowledge rests in diversity of opinions.
- Learning is a process of connecting specialized nodes or information sources.
- Learning may reside in non-human appliances.
- Capacity to know more is more critical than what is currently known.
- Nurturing and maintaining connections is needed to facilitate continual learning.
- Ability to see connections between fields, ideas, and concepts is a core skill.
Expanded, Shared Knowledge Base

- **Currency**
  (accurate, up-to-date knowledge) is the intent of all connectivivist learning activities.

- **Decision-making is itself a learning process.**
  Choosing what to learn and the meaning of incoming information is seen through the lens of a shifting reality. While there is a right answer now, it may be wrong tomorrow due to alterations in the information climate affecting the decision.
How the Library Benefits

• Increased awareness of new resources

• The upside to “other duties as assigned”: Participate in designing learning activities for courses

• Increased PR for the library and mobile

• Backstage passes to the LMS
Learn New Ways of Working

PODIO
WORK THE WAY YOU WANT TO

yammer

Google Drive
The Value of Informal Learning Discussion
Before You Collaborate: Questions to Ask

• Is there value for both parties?

• Are all members genuinely interested? (No extra pay!)

• Is there enough time for everyone to meet conveniently and regularly?

• Is one team member willing and able to function as project manager?

• What is the project timeline?

• Will the project succeed if any players exit?
Blueprint for For Your Own Collaboration

- Short-term project? Long-term collaboration?

- Agree on mission and specific goals first

- Determine source of financial support

- Determine how the collaboration will mutually benefit participants

- Aim for a balanced membership and a complement of skills (interpersonal, problem-solving, technical, etc.)

- Discuss allocation of hours and expectations with your supervisor (may not be immediate or tangible deliverables)
Simply stated:

*With energy, commitment, skill, and continual nurturing, you can achieve collaborative advantage.*

- Huxham and Vangen
Works Consulted


Questions?

Contact us!

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