EMERGING STRATEGIES FOR SUPPORTING STUDENT LEARNING: A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR

Libraries and librarians offer student-centric educational support via multiple avenues. Library spaces may be strategically designed to facilitate students’ studies. Librarians provide instruction, research guides, and programming to aid student learning. Allan touches on each of these topics, with an emphasis on teaching strategies for serving students in person and in the digital environment.

Allan is an author and trainer and has written articles and books about libraries, learning, and management. Prior to this, Allan worked as a librarian early in her career before transitioning into teaching and administrative roles at business schools, with an interest in improved student learning.

The book is arranged into eleven chapters. The first chapter provides an overview of the book and considers new or changing aspects of higher education, including student interests, given our online and interconnected global society. The second chapter introduces the diversity and needs of students enrolled in higher education and briefly notes strategies for teaching in an inclusive classroom. Chapter three explores the multiple literacies of information science: digital (including media), information, and metaliteracy. Chapter four discusses the role of libraries in providing student employment assistance during and after college.

The next six chapters delve into student learning and librarian teaching models and strategies. Allan reviews learning and teaching models old and new in chapter five. Librarians
looking to inject greater variety into their teaching may want to read chapter six, which includes ideas for classroom activities. Chapters seven and eight cover session design for one-shot classes and semester-long courses, with consideration for both in-person and online presentation formats. Chapter nine briefly highlights delivery style guidelines for in-person and online courses. Chapter ten examines assessment of learning. The concluding chapter offers suggestions and tips for planning librarian professional development, from less structured networking and learning to more formal coursework.

This book is designed for ease of reading. Each chapter begins with an introduction and concludes with a summary and list of references. References are current, with some older literature cited for context. Subheadings further split up chapter text. Chapters include case studies and other practical examples, which are called out from the main chapter text. Main points and suggested activities are frequently pulled out from the paragraph narrative into bulleted lists. An index is included.

In this book, Allan draws together some of the fundamental elements surrounding library support of learning on the academic campus today. The title of the work is misleading, however, as the book does not include much discussion of the broad range of emerging library services, such as evolving reference practices, developing online and video tutorials (although many teaching concepts apply to tutorial design), promoting open access publications, or diversifying services offered by libraries. Its predominant focus is on elements of teaching. The core information Allan presents about teaching models is timeless, while contemporary teaching methods, such as active learning and facilitating learning in the digital environment, make the book a more dynamic resource for the modern library instructor. The book is not a
comprehensive tome; instead, it serves as a snapshot of library instruction services and a resource for applied examples and activities. Allan writes from the perspective of the UK, but draws in practices from the US, including references to the new ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education. Academic librarians with responsibilities in instruction will find this book to be supplemental reading as they evolve their teaching practices.

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