Collaborate, Teach and Travel: Librarians and Study Abroad

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LOEX 2018
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USF and Education Abroad Programs

- Large, urban campus: 50,000 students
  - 10% international students from 145 countries
- 10% of 2015/16 graduating class participated in global study experience
- $115K awarded annually in study abroad scholarships
- 50+ study abroad programs: research and travel experience
  - USF Science in Florence, USF Paris Dance, SeaMester in British Virgin Islands
USF’s Global Citizen’s Project

• Central component of the QEP Plan

• Encourages students to explore their role in the world, connect with diverse people, places and issues and participate to make a difference globally.

• Participating students receive certificates of completion to earn Global Citizens Awards, which may be a study abroad experience.
Objectives

• **Identifying** ways librarians can contribute to student study abroad experiences

• **Identifying** how library leaders can encourage and support librarian involvement in campus global education

• **Discussing** how libraries can assess study abroad efforts

• **Offering** resources for future learning
Think, Pair, Share

• Turn to your neighbor and introduce yourself

• Share and brainstorm – 3 minutes
  ○ What study abroad programs are at your institution?
  ○ Have you ever participated?
  ○ How is your library involved...in study abroad or global initiatives?
  ○ How might your library get involved with these programs.
Participation, Collaboration, and Engagement: Home and Abroad

On Campus

Travel Abroad
On-Campus Engagement: Librarian

- Workshops
  - Travel/Country
  - Study abroad orientations
- Online guides
  Cornell: [http://guides.library.cornell.edu/studyabroad](http://guides.library.cornell.edu/studyabroad)
  USF: Country/travel guide: [http://guides.lib.usf.edu/country](http://guides.lib.usf.edu/country)
  **New guide:** [http://guides.lib.usf.edu/studyabroad](http://guides.lib.usf.edu/studyabroad)
  U of Illinois: [http://guides.library.illinois.edu/costarica](http://guides.library.illinois.edu/costarica)
- Instructional collaboration with faculty
- Pre-trip assistance
Workshops and Guides

• Conducting workshops on finding travel, country and cultural information about prospective countries that students will visit.

• Discussing the logistics of travel with students (visas, immunization, transportation, etc.)

• Sharing travel apps to help with language learning, messaging, calling, maps, etc.
On-going assistance from Librarian

For all students:
- Accessing the library’s network

For researching students:
- Identify libraries in their study abroad locales
- Arrange visits to libraries abroad
- Collaborate with program organizer on identifying points of interest
- Educate students about collection use policies
Travel Abroad: Librarian

- Co-lead/develop a study abroad trip
  - USF librarian experiences in Argentina, Bolivia, and U.K.
- Research opportunities for visiting museums and libraries abroad
  - Connect with librarians in-country
- Assist students with in-country research assignments
  - Connecting to university library resources
Library Leader Engagement with Study Abroad

- Outreach to campus study abroad programs
- Committee participation
  - Reviewing orientation materials for study abroad programs
  - Make suggestions about improving student preparedness with library resources
  - Volunteer to be on an international education or study abroad committee
- Assessment activities – programs
- Engagement with pre-travel orientation
Assessing Library Impact 2017 + 2018

- Survey
- Focus Groups
- Workshop Evaluations
Assessment: Student Global Ambassadors
Survey Results

- Characteristics
  - 19 questions, 1 new question on visiting museum and/or libraries abroad
  - 2017=31 respondents, 2018=33 respondents
  - 70% female (reflect overall % of students in study abroad)
  - 58% seniors, 25% juniors
  - Majors:
    - Biosciences, sciences, business, social sciences
  - 80% of travel: UK, Italy, and France
    - USF Florence, USF in London, USF in Paris
    - Average stay abroad: 4 to 6 weeks
# Assessing Student Use of Library Resources: Survey Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>2017 (n=31)</th>
<th>2018 (n=33)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How did you learn about your country/city?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Google 32%</td>
<td></td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Faculty 29%</td>
<td></td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Friends or Family 32%</td>
<td></td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you need to login to the USF network to access library resources while abroad?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Yes 29%</td>
<td></td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- No 71%</td>
<td></td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you use any library databases/resources to prepare?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Yes 16%</td>
<td></td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- No 68%</td>
<td></td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Not sure 16%</td>
<td></td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library resources listed: JSTOR, Oxford, Music Online</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Student Focus Group Assessment

- 10 to 12 questions
- Number of participants:
  - 2017 = 10  
  - 2018 = 3  
  - Programs represented: London, Florence, Paris, Vietnam, Russia, Ghana, and SeaMester (Caribbean)

  - **Key findings:**
    - Students did not know that they could access resources while abroad
    - Contact with librarian liaison before trip is important
    - Google results limited, some website information out of date
    - Language database would be helpful if available on phone
    - More information on cultural norms and political trends
    - Students highly valued resources to help with culture shock
    - Would attend f2f library workshop if time allows
Library F2F Workshop Assessment

• **Country/Travel Workshop**
  - Part of “Learn It Live & Online (LILO Series)
  - 2017 22 students, 2018 11 students
  - Overview of resources

• **Assessment**
  - Low response rate
  - Difficult to measure impact
  - Workshop content under revision
Looking to the Future

- Customizing a library web presence just for study abroad students and not generic distance information.
- Creating customized libguides for particular research programs abroad
- Becoming more involved in pre-travel orientations
- Connecting study abroad students with their liaison librarian
Resources for Further Reading


Final suggestions about engaging in study abroad

- **EDUCATE YOURSELF!**
  - Environmental scan about your institution’s international study abroad programs and initiatives
  - Investigate your library’s policies on travel abroad as library staff

- **VOLUNTEER!**
  - Look for opportunities to serve the study abroad mission

- **CREATE!**
  - Workshops, guides, websites and services to support study abroad

- **PROMOTE!**
  - Your involvement and your unique perspective as a librarian!
Thank you! Questions?