San Jose State University

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Going Beyond a Library Tour: Leading One-shots Using iPads and QR Codes

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Going beyond a library tour: Leading one-shots using iPads and QR codes

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ECAR National Study

According to the 2011 ECAR Study of Undergraduate Students and Information Technology report, "institutions and instructors do not fully harness [technologies] to create opportunities for more varied, inspiring, and beyond-the-classroom learning experiences."

Challenge for Libraries
How can libraries use technologies to excite and provide experiential learning for students to improve their information literacy skills?

50-Minute Session Set-Up

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>To do</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 mins</td>
<td>Basic introduction to using the iPad (wifi, typing, using the “scan” app) and talking about the activity and getting students out to the periodicals stacks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 mins</td>
<td>Part 1 of activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 mins</td>
<td>Part 2 of activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 mins</td>
<td>Part 3 of activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 mins</td>
<td>Wrap up (talk about the differences between popular v. scholarly, primary v. secondary and searching WorldCat Local, and show students our research guides)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 mins</td>
<td>Answer remaining questions</td>
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Secret to making sure that there was enough time for the entire activity: I used by phone timer.

What are QR Codes?

- Stands for “Quick Response”
- Similar to barcodes but with more capabilities
- Can take you to a website, send a text message, dial a phone number, etc.

How do you use it?
Use your smartphone and a QR code reader to scan the app with the phone’s camera. The QR code will take you to the webpage, text, etc.

Students used “scan” app

The Activity (Overview)
Problem-based learning, broken into three different parts. Each part has a:
- Scenario
- QR code to scan
- Questions to answer

The activities’ scenarios take students out into the library where they work in groups of 3-5 to identify the source.

Activity Objectives
- Recognize the difference between popular v. scholarly articles
- Ability to determine what are primary and secondary sources
- Become familiar with searching WorldCat Local

Scenario and Parts of the Activity

You are an exercise science major and you have an essay due in 2 weeks. You’ve chosen to write about yoga. The assignment requires you to find at least 2 peer-reviewed articles (also known as scholarly articles).

Part 1
You find an article by searching google but the full-text is not available freely online. You find a print copy at the library.

Part 2
Oops, looks like the first article is a scholarly article. Your friend recommended WorldCat Local to find scholarly articles.

Part 3
Now it’s your turn! The assignment asks for a second scholarly article. Search for the article using using WorldCat Local.

Disadvantages & Advantages

- Familiarizing students with iPads and QR codes in such a short introduction
- Feeling like 50-minutes is not long enough to finish the activity and cover important topics
- Finding articles on the same topic with both not available digitally but both available in print
- Grabbing students’ attention right from the start with a technology they are interested in
- Giving students hands-on experience with library resources and searching
- Allowing students to work in groups to solve a problem
- Having the opportunity to go around and check on each group and to answer any questions they may have right away