Syracuse University

SURFACE

Upstate New York Science Librarians Conference

2010

The Cephalonian Method of Instruction for First Year Science Undergraduates

Linda Galloway
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Follow this and additional works at: https://surface.syr.edu/nyscilib

Part of the Library and Information Science Commons

Recommended Citation

The Cephalonian Method of Library Instruction for
First Year Science Undergraduates

Linda Galloway

SUNY-ESF

lmgalloway@esf.edu

"Cephalonian"?

- Developed and implemented by Cardiff University (UK) librarians.

- Wished to have student interaction yet have controlled pace and structure

- They used humor, music and color in their presentations (music for "relaxed alertness")

Image: www.thegreektravel.com

What is it?

- Innovative induction method
  - Generally first exposure to college library/librarian
- Informative
  - Basic library resource information is presented
- Interactive
  - Students ask scripted and unscripted questions
- Lighthearted atmosphere
  - Scripted questions are phrased in a humorous way

Cephalonian @ ESF

- Used in introductory classes for biology and biotechnology students
- Previously have been doing "25 Tips in 50 Minutes" with these classes
- Like to have a unique presentation – these students often hear my lectures in several different classes
- Hand out cards with questions to students as they enter class
- Provide introductory info. then time for questions

Our Method

1. Developed a series of questions from the material we wished to present.

2. Put together a slide show of introductory information.

3. Categorized the queries, developed "catchy" questions and made index cards with graphics.

4. Developed color-coded slides to answer the questions.

5. Handed out questions to students

6. Put on the show! Ideally in one hour time slot.

Questions on Cards

Blue - Introductory Questions

Where are the libraries?
How to get help
How to find the presented info. again

(5 questions)

Yellow – Catalog/Books

How to find books
Using the catalog to find items
Borrowing policies

(5 questions)

Green – Databases/Articles

How to access serial literature
Finding articles on specific topics
Locating full text

(6 questions)

Purple – Wrap up

Services in the library
Reserves & ILL
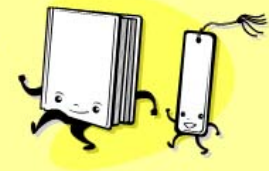**Library accounts**

(5 questions)

Sample cards

Let's be honest, I'm not going to remember much from hearing this today. Is the information you give us online somewhere?

BLUE 1

The tabs on the Moon Library home page are confusing. Which search do I use to find books?

YELLOW 2

I think I hear coyotes outside of my dorm at night. How do I find articles about coyotes in New York?

GREEN 2

I prefer to do my homework in silence. Is there anywhere quiet in the library for me to work?

PURPLE 5

Why use this method?

- Working with mostly uninterested freshman at 5pm
- Promotes a positive first impression of the library
- Makes learning more personable and enjoyable
- Humorous instruction motivates and energizes
- Fun and novel for the instructor!

Assessment

Library Guest Lecture Evaluation Form

Date of presentation: _____

What is the most important thing you learned in today's class?

What is still unclear to you?

Thanks! Linda Galloway, lmgalloway@esf.edu

References

Morgan, N., & Davies, L. (2004). Innovative library induction–introducing the 'Cephalonian Method'. *Sconul Focus, 32*, 4-8

Trefts, K., & Blakeslee, S. (2000). Did you hear the one about the Boolean operators? Incorporating comedy into library instruction. *Reference Services Review, 28*(4), 369-378.

Walker, B. E. (2006). Using humor in library instruction. *Reference Services Review, 34*(1), 117-128

Questions?