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Unlocking Student Engagement: Success and Failure in Redesigning a First-Year Library Orientation

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Unlocking Student Engagement

Success and Failure in Redesigning a
First-Year Library Orientation

ABOUT US



Utah State University

Merrill-Cazier Library
Logan, UT

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Coordinator, Outreach & Peer
Learning

Katie Strand

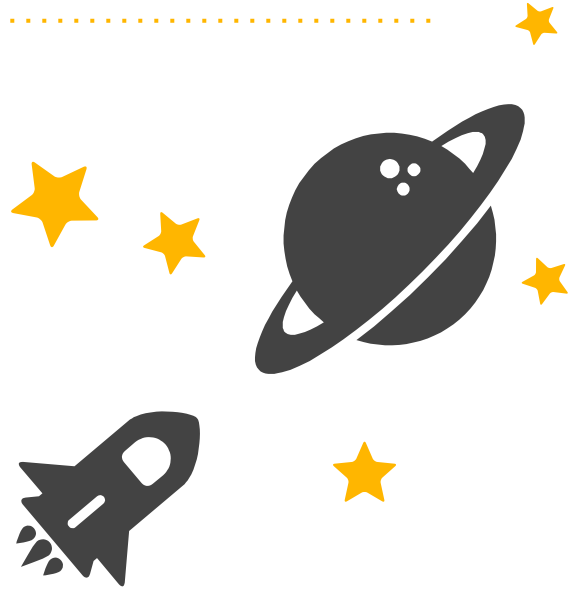
Library Teaching
Assistant

Teagan Eastman

Online Learning
Librarian

LET'S GET ACTIVE!

Demonstration of lockbox activity



LOCKBOX RULES



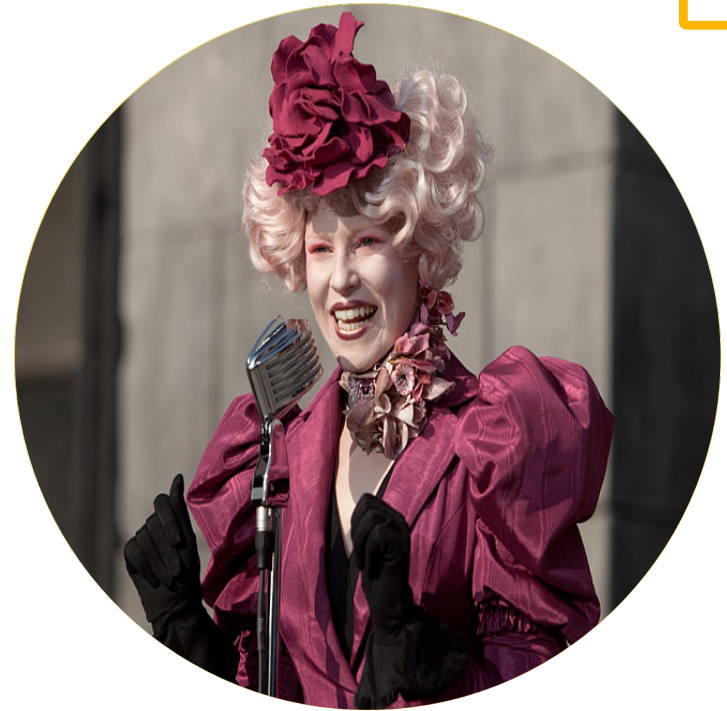
- This activity will explore the LOEX website.
<http://www.loexconference.org/>
- Each clue will provide you with one of the four numbers to unlock this box.
- You will be split into groups and each group will compete to win glory and the prize within the box!

Rules

1. Stay with your group
2. One person grabs one clue at a time
3. The first 3 clues can be solved at your seats
4. NO Running

MAY THE
ODDS BE EVER
IN YOUR
FAVOR

<http://www.loexconference.org/>



1

Freshmen Orientation

@ USU



2000+ students

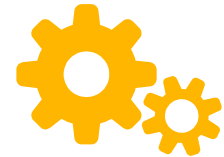
In 80 sections

3 day intensive

2-credit course

7 workshops

Happening in library at one time



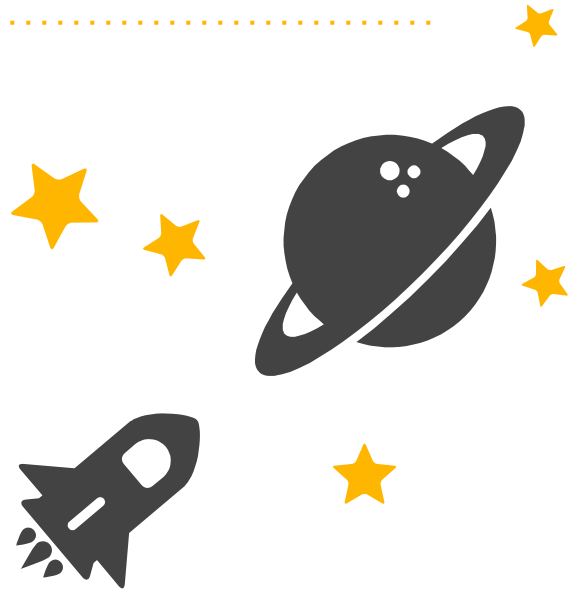
LIBRARY WORKSHOP

- 30 minute session
- Logistical constraints
- Past presentations



Workshop Revamp

Desire to improve & feedback from
Connections Committee



What the **committee** wanted



- Books! Books! Books!
- Scavenger hunt or interactive component

Struggle to find the balance between what committee wanted & what was **feasible**.

2

Redesign: Phase One

SPOILER ALERT: IT FAILS

Phase One

Balance committee requests, librarian expertise & feasibility. Solution = **gamification**



Survey

To explore the library's
virtual spaces



Scavenger Hunt

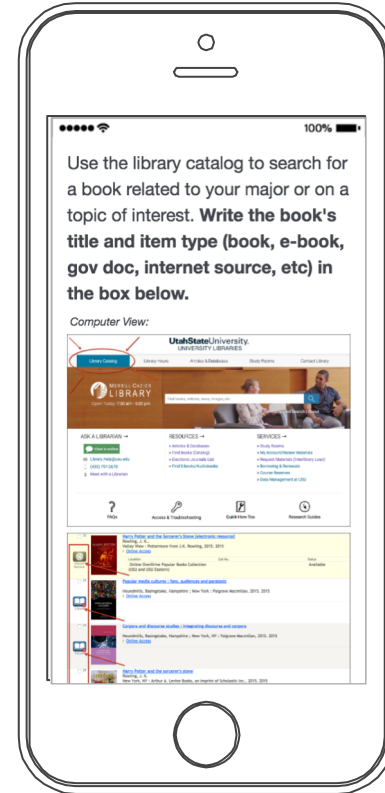
To explore the library's physical
spaces



Virtual Exploration

Survey that would guide students through:

- Library catalog
- Study rooms
- Subject librarians

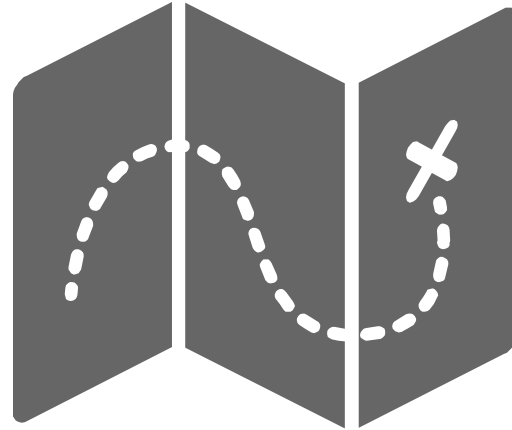




Physical Exploration

Scavenger hunt activity in which students were given sheet of paper then directed to....

- Library stacks
- Study rooms
- Instructor's favorite spot in the library



Mapped out **entire** library stacks

To minimize disaster and
spread out students in the
library



Scavenger Hunt - Part 2

- 1) Find the **ND 553 - ND 1304** call number range (Lower Level) and answer the question below:
 - a. What Greek word does the word "ceramic" originate from?

- 2) Find Study Room **107** and write down the code word _____
- 3) Locate your instructor or Peer Mentor in their favorite library spot and give them this card!



Failure to Launch

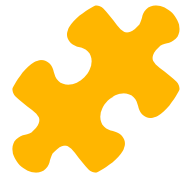
- Technological complications
- Shifting stacks project
- Lack of cohesion between activities
- Missing librarian as friendly face
- Gamification without incentive

Two months to go and we needed a completely new workshop.

3

Redesign: Phase Two

LOCKBOX



Phase **Two** of Redesign



Fresh Ideas



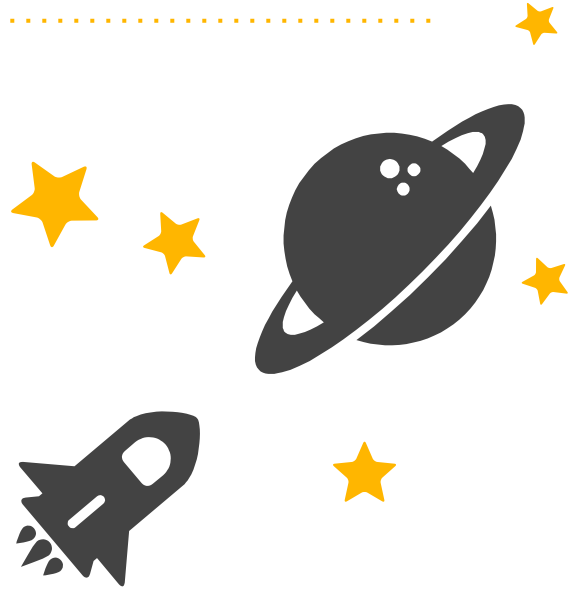
Engaging | Simple | Active



Clear Session Goals

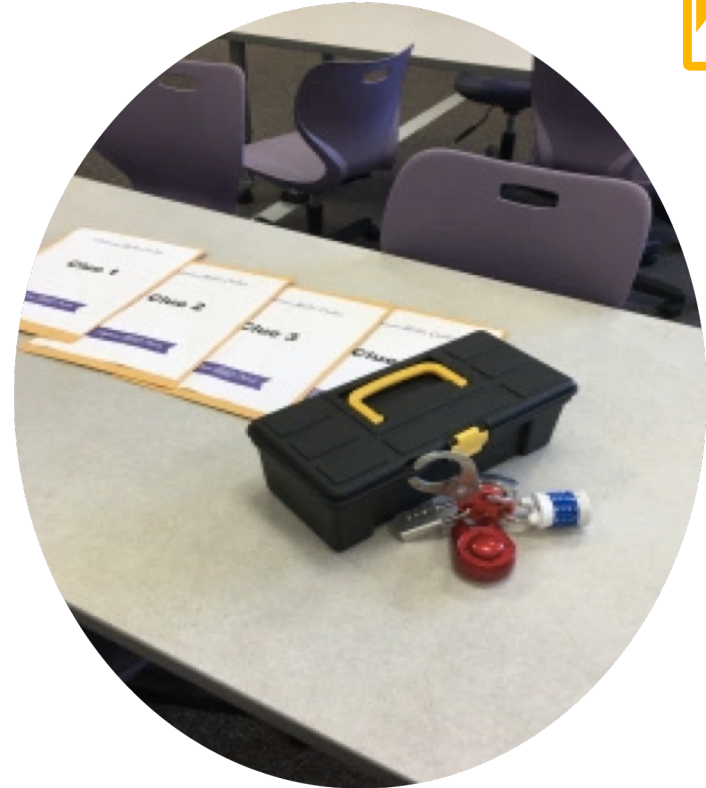
Pinterest Inspo

Like all millennials I turned to the mecca of ideas... Pinterest



Thank you Kathy Schmidt

Engaging
Fun
Incentivizing
Scalable?
Childish??
Logistics?!?





LockBox Activity

4 clues

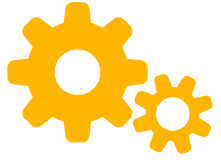
- Focus on **essential** things students need to know
- Balancing act
- Incorporate physical and virtual spaces

The third number of the code is:

The number of the floor where the
book **Emoji Dick, or, the Whale**
can be found

Hint: Use the search bar on the homepage to look up the title of a book

Add all the
Digits and Divide
By two; your room
number will solve
The Final Clue



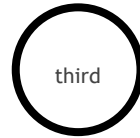
Get organized



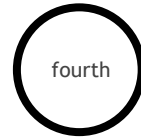
Purchase materials



Organize materials



Organize clues



Manage Logistics



Test | Learn | Revise

4

Implementation

of lockbox activity



Procedures

Before | During | After

Script & Training

For library facilitators

Physical Setup

Add technology, stage room

LockBox GoTime



- Organize! Organize! Organize!
- Have backup materials
- Helpers



2,172

Students took Connections in 2017

5

Anecdotes

From Connections

Connections Experiences



Competition



Fun



Mystery

5

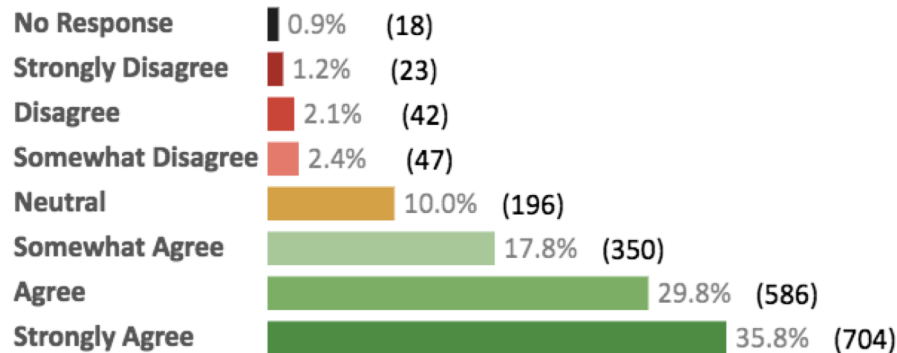
Assessment

of lockbox activity



Students 2016

q26 Because of the library workshop, I am more likely to ask the library staff for assistance.

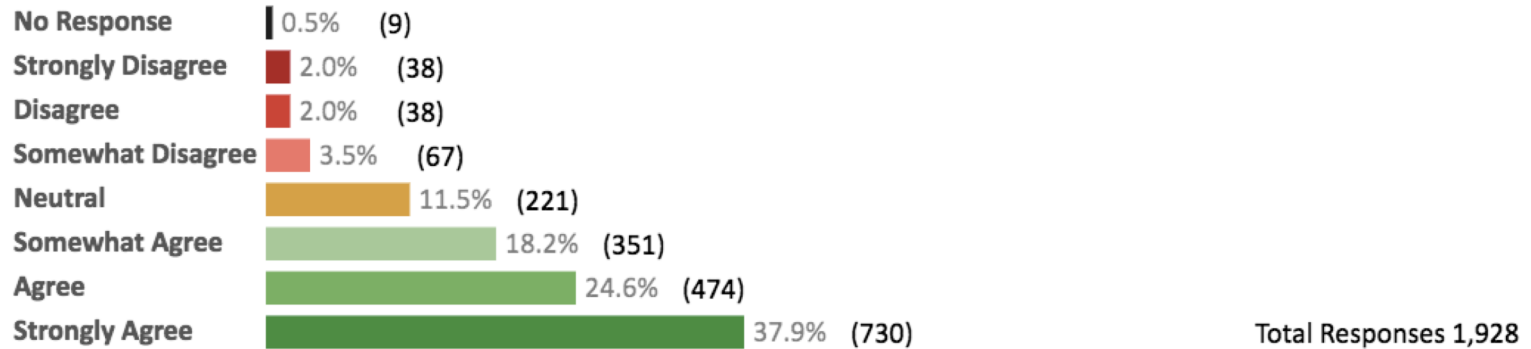


Total Responses 1,966



Students 2017

q26 Because of the library workshop, I am more likely to ask the library staff for assistance.



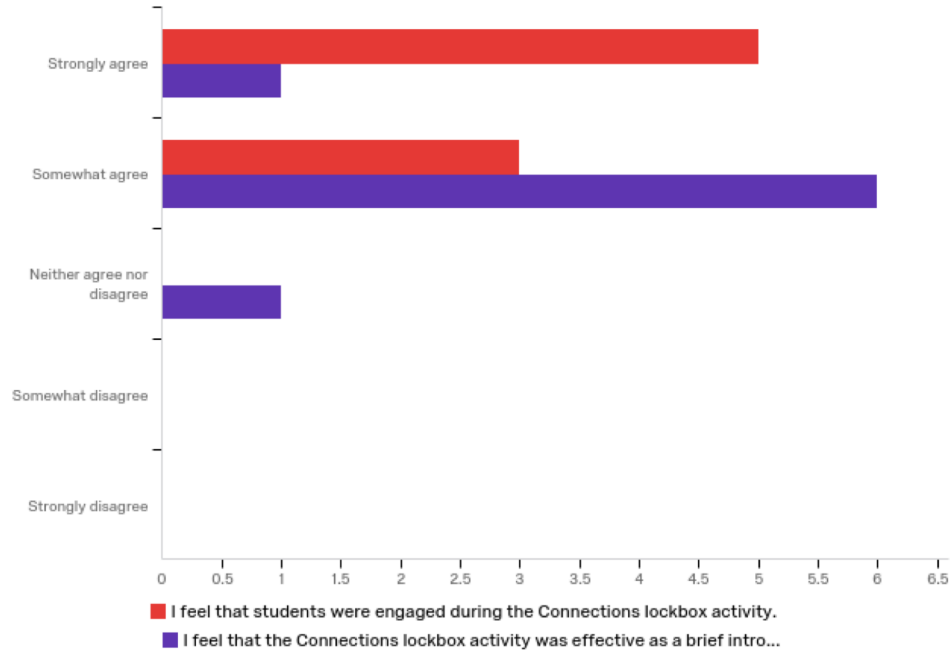
Connections **Instructors**



The library workshop provided useful information about how the library is organized, how to find materials, and how to get help from library staff.

	Agreement
2016	82.86%
2017	66.83%

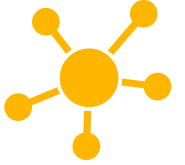
Library Instructors



5

Takeaways & more

what we learned and where we go from here



Takeaways for **redesigning** orientations

- Don't be afraid to try new things
- Plan ahead
- Balance outside criticism/advice with librarian expertise
- Provide context to activities
- Be meticulous and organized
- Do multiple practices & trainings
- Learn from failures

Going **forward** with Connections

1. More librarian interaction at beginning
2. Additional clues
3. Improved evaluation questions





Thanks!

Any questions?

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Credits

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

- Presentation template by [SlidesCarnival](#)
- Photographs by [Unsplash](#)



SlidesCarnival icons are editable shapes.

This means that you can:

- Resize them without losing quality.
- Change fill color and opacity.
- Change line color, width and style.

Isn't that nice? :)

Examples:

