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2019

Language Awareness and the Library

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ABSTRACT
LANGUAGE AWARENESS AND THE LIBRARY
Assignment Description

FYS Discipline:

Liberal Arts: Social Sciences and Humanities

Objectives of the Assignment:

Introduce students to the Library's collection of books in languages other than English, to Queens Library and the public library system, and to the Library of Congress call number system for books in the stacks.

Amount of Time to Complete the Assignment:

The assignment is most effective when it follows several previous Library assignments:

- An introduction to the Library's website in a computer classroom that guides students in exploring the Library's resources
- A Library Orientation conducted by a librarian
- A Library Treasure Hunt for sources in the card catalog and subscription databases
- An oral introduction to the foreign language resources available to students. Then introduce LaGuardia Library's card catalog and its Advanced Search function they will use in Part I and the Queens Library website they access in Part II

Once these preliminary steps have been taken, the assignment itself can be done in an hour. Have students work together so they can share, collaborate and learn from each other.

Percentage of the Final Grade:

This low-stakes assignment is one of about fifteen in-class assignments all of equal worth.

Reflection

The assignment requires that students follow directions in navigating the websites of the LaGuardia Library and Queens Library. It is very hands-on and practical, so students have to be focused and engaged. You should circulate among the students and make yourself available to answer questions, explain directions, point out solutions, etc. However, getting students to work together is also key. They can teach each other, make friends, and share their strengths. They will work faster, not get stuck as often, and not need your help as much.

LANGUAGE AWARENESS AND THE LIBRARY

DIRECTIONS: In this project we will peruse two Library systems: the LaGuardia Library and the Queens Public Library. Our goal is to learn something about both systems as well as to increase our awareness of resources available to us in learning about and learning in other languages.

PART I: THE LAGUARDIA LIBRARY

1. Go to LaGuardia's homepage. Click MENU > MORE > LIBRARY
2. On the Library's homepage click BOOKS > ADVANCED SEARCH
3. In the dropdown boxes under Limit your search to start from the right:
 - Open LOCATIONS and choose STACKS (the shelves books are stored on in the Library)
 - Choose BOOKS in FORMAT TYPE
 - Choose BOOK in RECORD TYPE
 - Open LANGUAGES and choose a language you are interested in
 - Be sure Library is LaGuardia CC
 - Click SEARCH
4. Scroll down and click the number (it indicates the number of books available)
5. Choose an interesting looking book and click LAGUARDIA on the right side.
6. Return to the Library homepage. Click BOOKS (LIBRARY CATALOG) > FIND A BOOK ON THE SHELF USING THE CALL NUMBER

PART II

THE QUEENS PUBLIC LIBRARY

1. Google queenslibrary.org
2. In SEARCH FOR on the top right write in a language you are interested in. Click the microscope.
3. Scroll down to LANGUAGE on the right side of the page click the language.
4. Click an interesting looking title and look for this information:
 - **Location (the branch that has the book):**
 - **Item Type (Book, sound recording, ebook, etc.):**
 - **Status (Checked out, available, etc.):**

5. Return to the Queens Library website. Click HOURS AND LOCATIONS and find the public library nearest your house (or nearest LaGuardia). Then click APPLY FOR A LIBRARY CARD and find out how to get a card. You can then order books and have them delivered to the library branch nearest you.

- LIBRARY BRANCH NEAREST YOU:

- EXPLAIN HOW TO APPLY FOR A LIBRARY CARD:

FINAL STEPS

1. Go to the Library's "stacks" and find the book you looked for in Part I on the other page. Take a picture of it. If you have trouble finding the book, ask a Reference Librarian for help at the desk in the middle of the Library.

2. Post the picture in your College Resources folder with a caption containing the following information:
 - **Who is the author?**
 - **Is the book translated or is it in the original language?**
 - **If it is translated, who is the translator and what was the title in the original language?**
 - **When and where was it originally published (in the original language)?**

3. Write a paragraph on what you have learned from the two library systems—LaGuardia's academic library and a public library—and the availability of books in other languages than English. What seems to you to be the guiding principles of each library in its holdings of foreign-language books? Who are they meant to be used by and for what purposes?