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First Time Around: Teaching and Information Literacy Course Online

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Recommended Citation

First Time Around: Teaching Information Literacy Online

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Who Are We?

- Columbus State University- a regional university located in southwest Georgia with a student body of 8,350.

- Paula Adams, Instruction Coordinator for CSU Libraries & Linda Jones, Head of Cataloging and Periodicals are library faculty colleagues who love cats.

A University Initiative & LIBR 1105

- A university initiative was established in 2008 to encourage faculty to create/convert courses to be taught online.

- Fall 2008- a proposal was submitted to convert LIBR 1105 into an online course. The entire project began in earnest and ended with relief between Oct-Dec. 2008.

- LIBR 1105 (Intro to Library Science) had recently undergone a change of its own the previous year going from a 1hr credit to a 2hr credit course.

A Group Effort

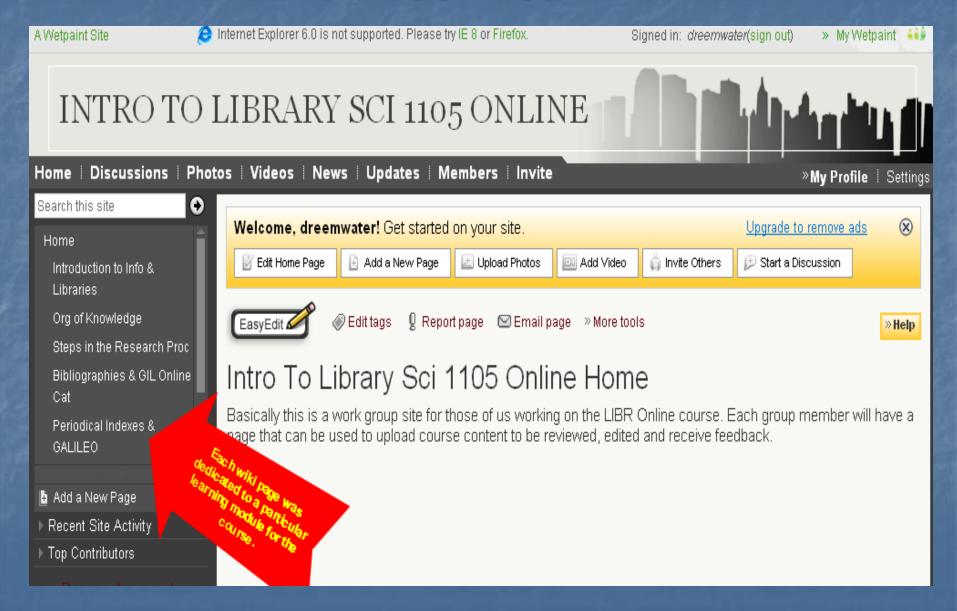- A group of library faculty with experience teaching LIBR 1105 F2F were assembled and led by the Instruction Coordinator to assist with adapting course content. Linda Jones assisted with the technical aspects by helping to implement content material into the university course management system (WebCt), and aid in supporting the maiden voyage of the course taught in the Spring 2009 semester by Paula Adams.
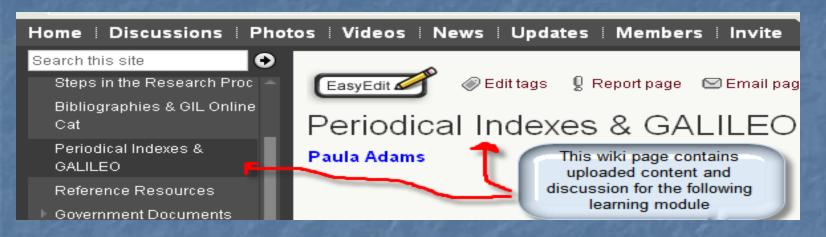
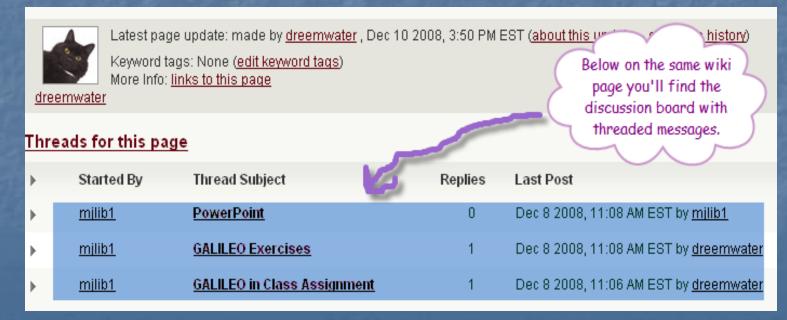# Collaborative Workspace: LIBR 1105 Group Wiki

- A wiki was set up to allow the group to collaborate on this project using WetPaint.com (free wiki site).

- Team members utilized this site to upload course content for review and feedback. This became an efficient way for the group to collaborate effectively when schedules could not be coordinated for f2f meetings.

LIBR 1105 Team Wiki

INTRO TO LIBRARY SCI 1105 ONLINE

Home | Discussions | Photos | Videos | News | Updates | Members | Invite

» My Profile | Settings

Search this site

Home

Introduction to Info & Libraries

Org of Knowledge

Steps in the Research Proc

Bibliographies & GIL Online Cat

Periodical Indexes & GALILEO

Add a New Page

▶ Recent Site Activity

▶ Top Contributors

Welcome, dreemwater! Get started on your site.

Edit Home Page | Add a New Page | Upload Photos | Add Video | Invite Others | Start a Discussion

EasyEdit | Edit tags | Report page | Email page | » More tools | » Help

Intro To Library Sci 1105 Online Home

Basically this is a work group site for those of us working on the LIBR Online course. Each group member will have a page that can be used to upload course content to be reviewed, edited and receive feedback.

Each wiki page was dedicated to a particular learning module for the course.

LIBR 1105 Team Wiki

LIBR 1105 Team Wiki

Attachments   📎 **Add an attachment**

🇼 GALILEO jrnl cit linker assignment.doc (Word Document - 32k)   Remove
posted by **dreemwater**   Dec 10 2008, 3:01 PM EST
This attachment has no description. (edit description)

🇼 GALILEO Intro Exercises.doc (Word Document - 26k)   Remove
posted by **dreemwater**   Dec 10 2008, 3:00 PM EST
This attachment has no description. (edit description)

You'll find below the discussion board an
area where attached files were uploaded
for review. I tried uploading Camtasia files
(screencapture/audio software) but the
file limit for any WetPaint wiki page is
only 2MB whereas the tutorials created
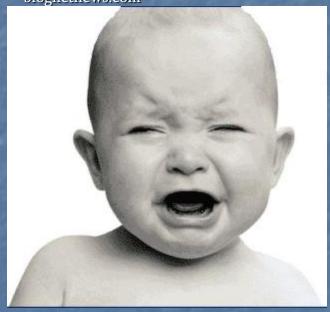for this module were at least 25MB.

🇼 GALILEO Database Assignment.doc (Word Document - 27k)   Remove
posted by **dreemwater**   Dec 10 2008, 3:00 PM EST
This attachment has no description. (edit description)

📄 5 Periodicals and GALILEO.ppt (Powerpoint Presentation - 1,202k)   Remove
posted by **dreemwater**   Dec 10 2008, 3:00 PM EST
This attachment has no description. (edit description)

Of Tears, Teaching & Technology

Yes, I cried- a lot!!!!! –P. Adams

*blognetnews.com

- Preparation Time
- Technology Issues
- Student Expectations
- Communication Issues
- Assignments/Grading
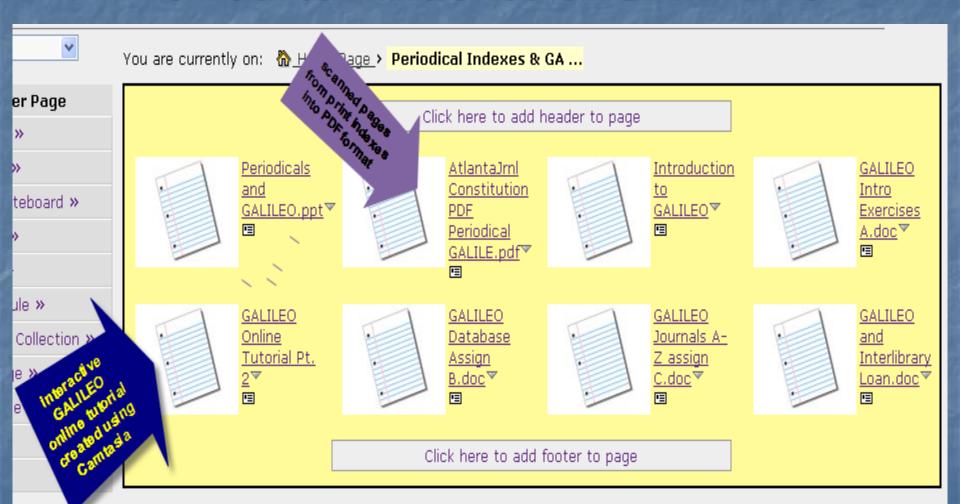- Online Teaching & Learning Oh No!

Preparation & Technology

- Through the course of my research, I found some librarians commented most of the work is in creating an online course while some begged to differ. My actual experience sided more with the "beg to differ" crowd. Converting the course and teaching were both lots of work.

- Technology- WebCT didn't always work well. Some features such as email and the ability to upload course material didn't always work and could be time consuming. Also, many of the online tutorials I'd created for GIL & GALILEO were too large to upload into CougarView (WebCT) with a 25MB file limit. This forced me to edit/recreate these tutorials into smaller files for uploading.

LIBR 1105 & CougerView (WebCT)

LIBR 1105 Module:
Periodical Indexes & GALILEO

LIBR 1105 Online: Various Module Set-Ups

Assignments

- Downloading and grading student assignments was a time consuming task especially annotating each assignment with remarks and sending them back to each student. In hindsight, it would have been more efficient to utilize the "Assignments" feature within WebCT (CougarView) instead of creating assignments in Word documents.

LIBR 1105 Online: Discussion Board

Basic View | Power View | Content Inventory

Discussions

🖈 **Discussions**

Students can access all available components below because the tool has bee

[Create Topic] [Create Category]

All Topics .... 401 Messages

All My Posts .... 1 Messages

To add another interactive/engaging component to the course, the discussion board was used in many ways. This helped students to understand online learning isn't necessarily learning in isolation but is achieved best when done as part of a learning community. Some discussion questions required students respond to at least one comment posted by a fellow classmate.

Move	Title	Messages
	☐ Libraries Discussion Question 🔒	73 Messages
	☐ Introductions Please- LIBR 1105 Spring 2009 🔒	25 Messages
	☐ American Libraries and Democracy - 15pts 🔒	45 Messages
	☐ How We Organize Our Lives 🔒	39 Messages
	☐ Group 1 Final Project Team	74 Messages
	☐ Group 2 Final Project Team	2 Messages
	☐ Group 3 Final Project Team	58 Messages

Students were split into teams for the final course project and were allowed to utilize the discussion board to communicate with each other.

LIBR 1105 Online: Assessment

Student Expectations and Communication Issues

- **Learning Styles**: Most students take online courses for their convenience yet, many do not consider if online learning complements or hinders their learning style. Some students did well working with deadlines, asking questions and staying on top of any kind of online communication. Others became swamped pretty quickly and frustrated complaining about deadlines, even asking for help but not checking emails or phone calls in a timely manner to complete assignments for example. There is so much more to be said/researched about the complexity of student online learning.

Teaching & Learning

- Teaching online for the first time has shed light on the complexities of distance education – that not all students are technologically or cognitively prepared to learn online. This, regardless of the well known fact that today's millennials spend a lot of time on a laptop, Smartphone or other mobile devices accessing the internet.

- This means closer attention must be placed on course design and delivery as well as teaching methodology that will encourage students to become self-directed learners; a major difference between F2F and online courses.

The Next Time Around

- Contemplating some of the technology issues, the university has updated to a recent version of WebCT (v.8) for Fall 2009 . Hopefully this will resolve some of those tech issues

- I will provide access to a learning assessment survey that will help students enrolled in the course understand if they are suited for online learning. This may help clear up some student expectations.

- Continue researching pedagogy for online learning to improve and better understand the paradigm shift of teaching and learning

And let's see, what else?

- As with anything, there are challenges which can be exciting. We look forward to finding ways of improving this course through experimentation, keeping abreast of what others are doing- all with a healthy dose of encouragement and a sense of humor! :D

- If you have questions or comments please feel free to contact us!

- Paula Adams: Instruction Coordinator -

  adams_paula @colstate.edu

- Linda Jones: Head of Periodicals & Cataloging - jones_linda6@colstate.edu

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