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Collaborating at a Distance

Linda E. Kern

Cynthia L. Smith

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**COLLABORATING AT A
DISTANCE**

**Linda E. Kern MLS
Assistant Professor
Head, Research and
Instructional
Services
Trustee Library
Brenau University**

A faint, light-colored illustration of two birds perched on a diagonal wire. The bird on the left is facing right, and the bird on the right is facing left. The wire extends from the bottom left towards the top right.

**with Cynthia L. Smith, MS
Adjunct Professor
School of Business
and Mass
Communication
Brenau University**

in absentia



how the courses are integrated
content of each course
initial collaboration
evolved collaboration
benefits
problems
why it works
student evaluations

2

how the courses are integrated

2 Weeks in AS110

2.5 Weeks in LB101

2.5 Weeks in AS110

A faint, light-colored illustration of two birds perched on a horizontal wire. The bird on the left is facing right, and the bird on the right is facing left. The wire extends across the width of the slide.

2 Online courses
Co-requisite
enrollment

2 Professors
2 Blackboard sites
2 Sets of assignments
and grades

**Focused on
returning
students**

content of each course

Academic Success 110 Skills for Professional Transition

2 credits

Course topics include stress and time management, study skills, writing skills and style, and dealing with work, home, and family concerns while attending school.

Library 101 Library Research

1 credit

Course topics include library research and critical thinking skills: selecting and articulating a research topic, locating and evaluating information, using the information effectively and ethically to write an APA style paper

content of each course

Joint assignment: complete a short research paper on an aspect of adult education

AS110

Selecting a topic –
concept mapping,
background research

Using the information
to effectively write

LB101

Articulating the topic
Locating information,
Managing information,
Evaluating Information
Using the information
ethically

To effectively write an
APA style paper



initial collaboration

Invited to “sit in”
Adapted existing courses
Integrated the courses
Adapted to online format

Essentials:

Identify key concepts
Give and take
Lose less important content
Hours on the phone
Access to Blackboard sites
Navigation

evolved collaboration

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Defined paper topic for better results

Rewrote some content based on student responses

Deleted less important content

Added [LibGuide](#) to centralize resources for library research

Wimba?

benefits

Non-threatening environment

Research is *taught*

Longer timeframe to develop paper

Quality research tools carry forward into other courses

Librarian contact carries forward

Early emphasis on writing

Early exposure and adaptation to 2 styles of teaching
and to 2 ways of delivering Bb content

Early exposure to more Bb tools

Additional support for students

Development of LB501

problems



Library anxiety

Extra preparation time

Additional teaching time

Changes must be coordinated

why it works



Respect

Attitude

Desire to collaborate

Evacuating the academic silo

Willingness to experiment

student evaluations

What did you like best about the course?

Learning how to write an effective paper, and do research, two things that I will be able to put to use for the rest of my classes.

Taught many aspects of the online and library environment and showed really what all the Brenau Library has to offer!

I think this class is of utmost importance and should be required...

I loved how this course and AS110 complimented each other, the instructors and the structure of both classes. The format and organization was excellent!

This was a tough class but well worth it.

THANK YOU!

Contact:

Linda E. Kern, MLS

Assistant Professor
Head, Research and
Instructional Services

Trustee Library of
Brenau University
500 Washington
Street SE
Gainesville GA 30501

770.534.6256 or
800.252.5119 X6256

LKern@brenau.edu

