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Engaging Students By Going the Extra Mile

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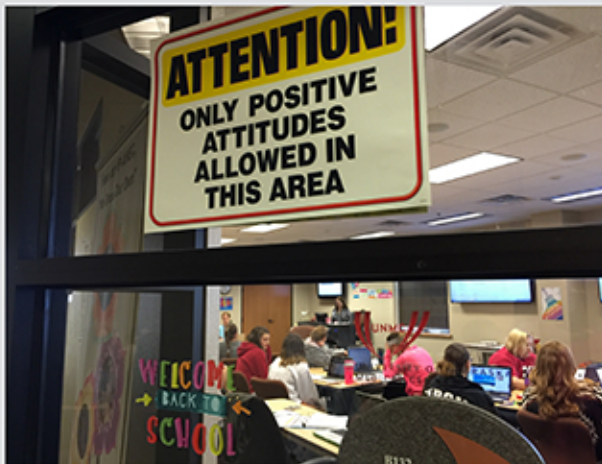
Abstract

For the last three years, library faculty have traveled in-person or provided technology delivered information literacy instruction to health professional students located on five campus sites and around the United States. Course faculty and students alike have reacted positively to this increased contact, encouraging librarians to expand the services. During face to face and distance sessions, librarians work to build and strengthen connections between students and the main campus. Course faculty appreciate the interdisciplinary collaborations and students receive instruction in essential research skills. This is one model highlighting the benefits of incorporating librarians into your curriculum.

Objectives

To teach research skills to Junior-level and graduate-level nursing students across 5 campuses, spread around Nebraska and across the US, in a consistent manner.

To strengthen interdisciplinary relations across faculty.



Library faculty interacting with NRS316 students.



Program Description

Since 2014, with the new responsibilities as the College of Nursing Liaison Library Professor, experimentation with teaching students in a blended environment, and director-supported travel to distance sites.

For undergraduate nursing students enrolled in NRS316, the research component is an introduction to information literacy. The Library Professor chose to provide instruction face to face instead of distance technology. UNMC College of Nursing students are located on three campuses and two satellite locations, spread across Nebraska.

For nursing students enrolled in masters-level research, NRS602, the course is taught through a blended environment. The face to face class is held at the College of Nursing, Omaha site. For students who cannot attend face to face, they use distance technology.

Class objectives were created based upon the course syllabi.



Program Sites



Results

Table 1. Comments based upon delivery method.

Student & Faculty Comments	Delivery Method
Scottsbluff student (2016): ...[Library Professor] was amazing! Thank you for coming.	Face to face
Scottsbluff student (2016): I...also liked that we had someone in class personally to help us instead of just a video cast!	Face to face
Kearney student (2015): Made me feel comfortable on how to contact her.	Face to face
Kearney faculty (2016): We have great new technology in our Health Science Education Complex and you will no longer need to travel to Kearney because we can Vidyo you from Omaha.	Distance Tech
Kearney student (2016): It was hard to stay focused.	Distance Tech

Table 2. Total miles traveled and total number of students taught.

Year	Miles Traveled	Students
2014	906	221
2015	1126	384
2016	1128	439

Table 3. List of classes and delivery methods, 2014-2016.

Year	Class	Delivery Method	Students
2014	NRS602	Combination	95
2014	NRS316 Lincoln	Face to Face	72
2014	NRS316 Kearney	Face to Face	54
2015	NRS602	Combination	63
2015	NRS316 Kearney	Face to Face	58
2015	NRS316 Omaha	Face to Face	130
2015	NRS316 Scottsbluff	Face to Face	33
2015	NRS316 Lincoln	Face to Face	60
2015	NRS316 Norfolk	Face to Face	40
2016	NRS602	Combination	47
2016	NRS316 Omaha	Face to Face	140
2016	NRS316 Norfolk	Face to Face	57
2016	NRS316 Lincoln	Face to Face	73
2016	NRS316 Kearney	Distance Technology	54
2016	NRS316 Scottsbluff	Face to Face	39
2016	NRS 3 rd Semester Students	Face to Face	29

Key Lessons Learned

Based upon the successful pilot in 2014, the in-person teaching was expanded in 2015 and 2016.

The feedback received from students and faculty indicates the connection has been strengthened between distance students and faculty to the main campus and its resources.

Partnership is key between visiting faculty and site-professor by clarifying expectations from both. Support for the visiting faculty member to take part in valued class time. Finally, partnership within the visiting faculty team is key to successful execution of itinerary, class objectives, defining roles, and each member of the team working to their strengths.



Visiting faculty with on-site professors in Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

Future Directions

Research is needed to assess the quality of the citations that students use after participation in information literacy sessions.

Travel for 2017 and beyond is dependent upon budgetary considerations.

Library faculty are working to improve quality of contact made through distance technology.

Acknowledgements

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