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May 2021

Unlocking via Pivoting: The Transition of a Wildly Successful Library Familiarization Activity Online

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Recommended Citation

Malone, D. (2021). Unlocking via Pivoting: The Transition of a Wildly Successful Library Familiarization Activity Online. Retrieved from <https://ir.una.edu/libfacpresentation/48>

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Unlocking via pivoting: The transition of a wildly successful library familiarization activity online

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Traditional Library Escape Room

- in-person
- 4 locks
- 1 hint card
- groups (teams) of 4-6
- 40 minutes for an escape
- 10 minutes for discovery in building
- wonderful retention statistics
- paper clues
- computer usage



ATTN: Villains
Memo: Erase links immediately.
Fall Semester 2019

Dearest villains,

We must remove vital links from the UNA Collier Library homepage guaranteeing a struggle for the school year for all students. Please, take this direction in erasing the links. It is imperative that we get this removed in the correct order.

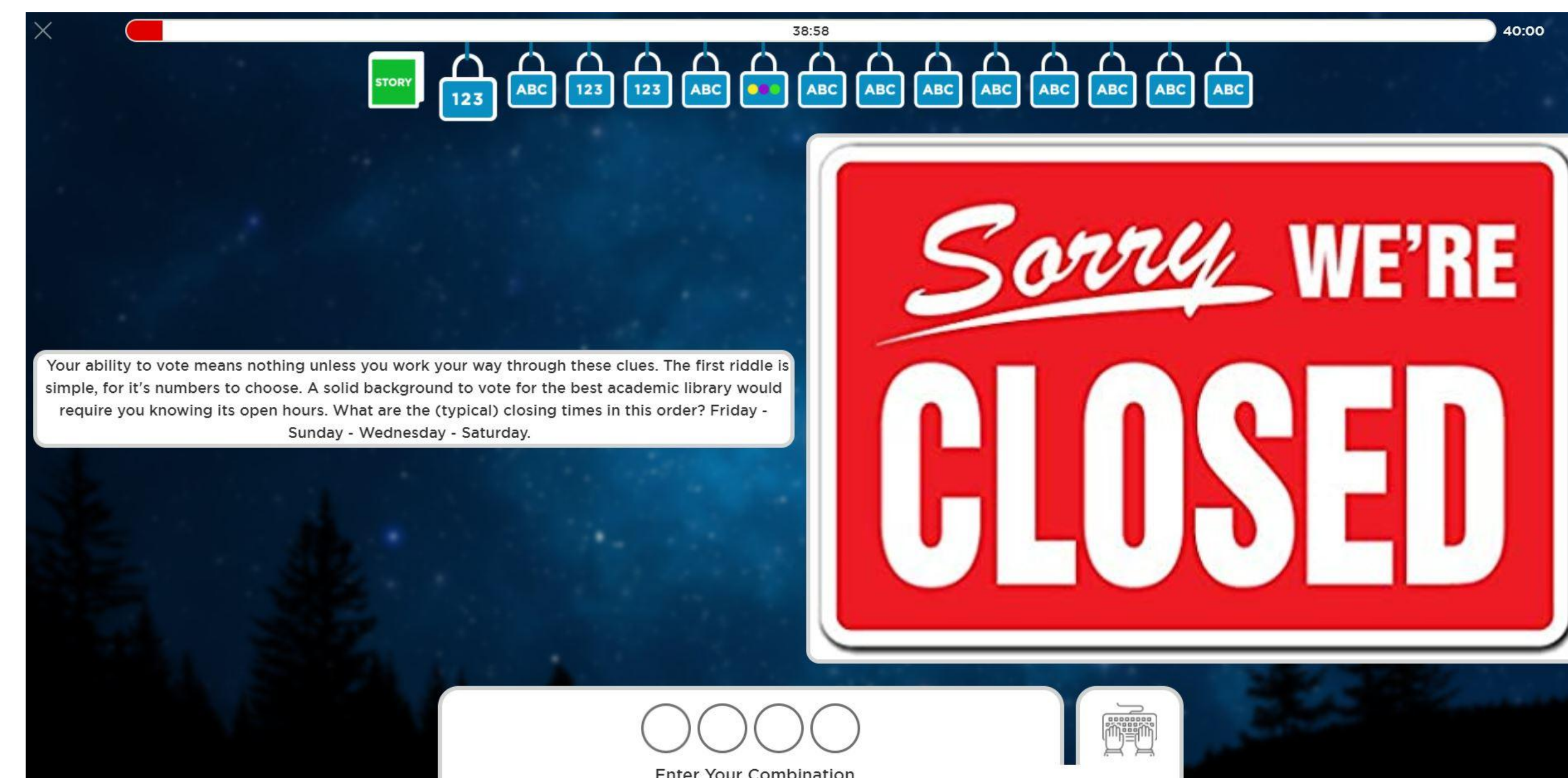
Links to remove:

- About
- Citations, Copyright & Plagiarism
- My Library Account
- Discovery
- Periodicals Holdings
- Ask us a question

Thank you,
Your Leader

Virtual Library Escape Room

- entirely virtual (with the exception of one course - mine)
- fall 2020
- 23 courses
- 378 students
- 14 locks
- non-sequential order
- 1 hint
- 1 final activity
- facilitated and introduced through Zoom
- link to breakout room given after the escape introduction
- 40 minutes for escape and final activity
- asynchronous option is also available, but only for asynchronous courses



Differences & Observations

- both formats are very well-received
- feedback was positive in the virtual format similar to the in-person format
- we WILL go back to predominantly in-person escape rooms in fall 2021
- teamwork and sharing is better in-person
- clues were easier in the virtual format, encouraging movement from clue to clue - thus 14 clues are present instead of 4
- theming has changed annually and will continue to do so (ex. election, alien abduction, rival university stealing resources)
- asynchronous option will continue virtually, but will be very similar thematically year after year
- it was a positive interaction, albeit virtual, and introduces novices to the academic library
- prizes were still given - held at the Library Help Desk, or mailed based on winner preference

