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# First-Year Student Initiatives at an Urban Research University

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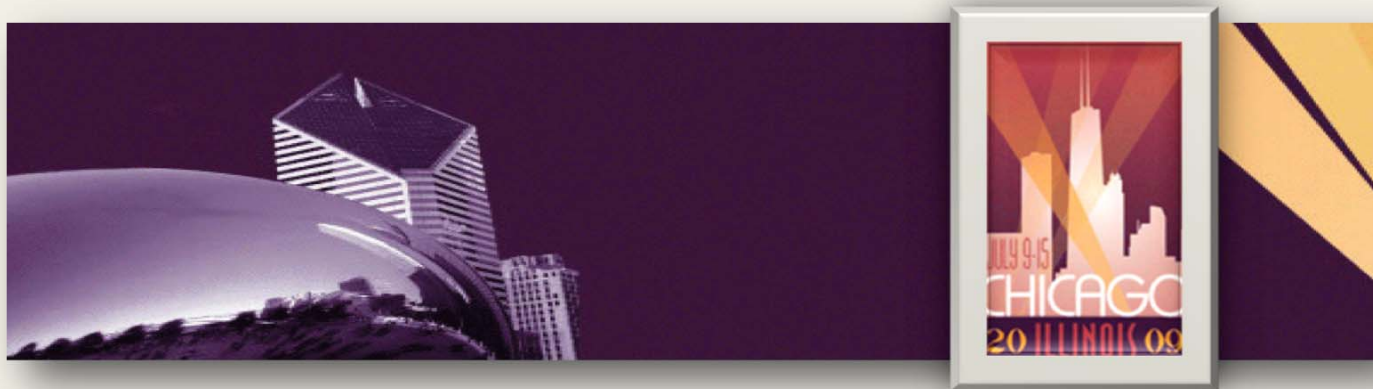
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## First-Year Student Initiatives @ an Urban Research University

<http://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/libsp/6>

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Librarian (Science & Engineering Library)

**Judith Arnold**, Coordinator for Information  
Services

# Role of the Library in University-wide Academic Orientation



iStart is a mandatory program for incoming first-year students

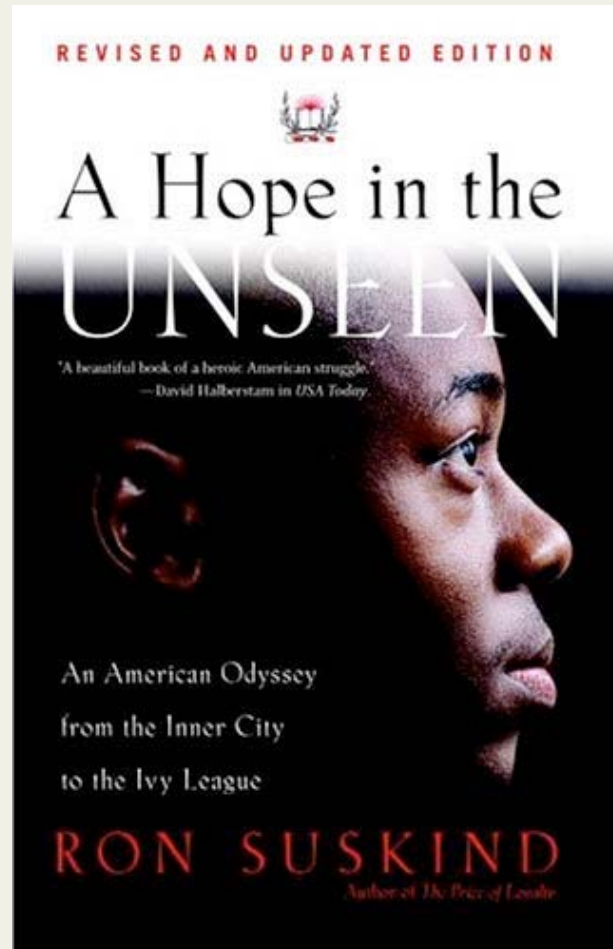


# Peer Mentor Training

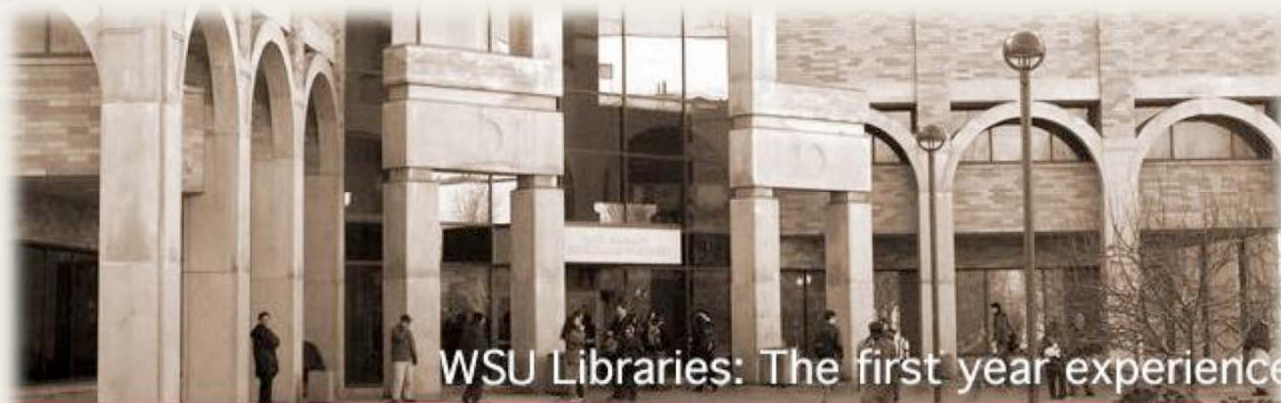
Student leaders, are selected to lead small groups of students.

- the Amazing Warrior Challenge
- a book discussion on the Summer Reading Experience book
- financial literacy and time management activities
- Warrior Service Day

# Summer Reading Experience



# Library Outreach to First-Year Students via a Customized Webpage



Hours at the UGL for Today: 8:00am-11:00pm / Extended Study Center Hours: Open 24hrs

## How Do I?

- [Get reserve items](#)
- [Find a computer](#)

## Renew Books

Renew Books, View Checked-out Items, See Fines and more...

## Find Articles

Find articles using the library.

<http://www.lib.wayne.edu/sites/fye/>

# The Process

## **The Charge:**

- Develop a webpage for beginning students to support the university's first-year experience initiative

## **The Team:**

- Five librarians (Instruction Team Librarian, Web Librarian, Computing Services Librarian, two Information Services Librarians)

# The Process

## **Goals for the page:**

- To be “unlike” typical library pages
- Focus on the essential information
- Have fun!

## **Development**

- Began Spring 2006
- Researched other libraries’ pages focused on first-year students
- Gathered ideas for content from first-year students



# The Outcome

- A portal to guide students to the campus resources needed to support academic success debuted Fall 2006
- Provides “one-stop shopping” environment by bringing together library information and resources with university-wide services
- Design inspired by University of Minnesota’s Undergraduate Virtual Library (<http://www.lib.umn.edu/undergrad/>)



Hours at the UGL for Today: 8:00am-11:00pm / Extended Study Center Hours: Open 24hrs

### How Do I?

- [Get reserve items](#)
- [Find a computer](#)
- [Locate a Study Room](#)
- [Get free classes on PowerPoint, EndNote, etc...](#)
- [Get help with my multimedia assignment](#)
- [Get computer help](#)

### Need Help? Ask a Librarian

- AIM screenname:  [waynelibrarian](#)
- [Chat with a Librarian](#)
- [Email a Librarian](#)
- [See a Librarian in person](#)

### LOL, Weird News...

- [Cheese beats Baboon Metaphysics in odd book prize](#)
- [No. 1 lady detective series?](#)
- [Pizza-making machine has chefs in a spin](#)
- [Priests get jail for stealing from church](#)
- [Sorry no training, TV ad](#)

### Renew Books

Renew Books, View Checked-out Items, See Fines and more...

### Assignment Planner

Start Date:  
 -  -

Due Date:  
 -  -

You CAN beat the clock!

### Campus Connections

- [Help with papers \(Writing Center\)](#)
- [See an advisor](#)
- [Financial Aid](#)
- [Need a Job?](#)
- [Tutoring](#)
- [Testing Center](#)
- [Campus Health Center](#)
- [Course catalog](#)
- [Schedule of classes](#)
- [Campus maps](#)
- [People Search](#)
- [Where to eat](#)

### Find Articles

Find articles using the library:

Search:

For more databases see the [Articles and Databases list](#)

### Find Books & Movies

Find books (like textbooks), and movies using the library catalog.

encore

Search

### Did You Know?



Detroit's Eastern Market is the largest wholesale/retail market of its kind in the U.S.! Saturday's at the market are crazy busy -- check it out! from: *The Detroit Almanac*

- **Library Services**—renewing books, getting reserves, reserving study rooms, and other essentials, including Ask a Librarian!
- **The Assignment Planner**, a time management tool
- **“Campus Connections”** links to university services such as advising, class schedules, tutoring, places to eat, the Writing Center, and other “essentials”
- Current day’s **hours** for the UGL
- **“Find Articles”** a metasearch that generates a list of articles available online from selected fulltext library databases
- **“Find Books and Movies,”** a WSU catalog search to locate materials in the library.
- **“Fun Stuff”**—Students can read “Weird News” from Reuters RSS feeds or learn unusual facts (“Did You Know?”) from a whimsical family of librarian avatars.

# Usability Testing & Page Effectiveness

## TASKS

- Find the books on reserve for the BA 1010 class taught by Clinton Andrews.
- What time does the Undergraduate Library close?
- How do you renew books you have checked out?
- If you were assigned a project on 3/1/2007 and it was due on 5/1/2007, by what date would you need to *find, review, and evaluate books*?
- When does Priority Registration for summer classes begin?
- How would you find where Shapero Hall is located?
- Find a journal article on the global warming.
- Find out if the library has the book *Fast Food Nation* by Eric Schlosser and if it is available for checkout.
- Check your Wayne State e-mail.

# Student Feedback

- Following the task completion portion of the testing, participants completed a short paper questionnaire.

“You don’t have to search a lot to figure out what to do.”

“I like the layout and I will probably use this site in the future for the majority of information I need. I like the inclusion of a “did you know?” Section and the weird news section.”

“But I really like the Assignment Planner and how easy it was to find articles/books.”

“If it were more advertised or known, then I am pretty sure students will use it on a regular basis.”



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