

Leveraging the MLIS Co-op Experience to Enhance Student Success

Colleen MacKinnon, Liaison Librarian, Brock University
Amanda Pemberton, MLIS Graduate

MLIS Co-op

Western University's MLIS Co-op Program is a paid employment opportunity that exposes students to a real-world library environment.

Benefits

- Hands-on library experience
- Employer contacts/references
- Exposure to different types of library environments & roles

Brock Library

- James A. Gibson Library (St. Catharines, ON)
- Liaison Services Department
- January - April 2018
- Collaborated with Liaison Librarians and library staff in project work

Brock Retention Grant

BU4U Student Retention Grant

- Academic achievement in Year 1
- Increasing access to services that support student success
- Communication and awareness strategies with students
- Positive social interactions for students
- Experiential learning and education

The Library's Retention Project

- Develop programming for Campus Wide Co-Curricular Program.
- Expand existing Personal Librarian Program.
- Assess our current online research help tutorials.
- Hire MLIS Co-op Student to help complete these goals.

Library Programming for Campus Wide Co-Curriculum

Discover Your Library

- In-person orientation workshop
- Offered at strategic times of the year
- Presentation style
- Interactive Elements (Kahoot trivia game, printing & copying 'field trip')

Learning Outcomes

Awareness of:

- Physical spaces that make up the Library
- Services the Library offers to aid students in their studies
- Essential tools & resources for academic research



#fakenews: A Workshop for Critical Thinkers

- Self-paced online workshop
- Interactive with formative assessment activities
- Used Microsoft Office 365 Sway & Forms applications

Learning Outcomes

- Identify characteristics of fake news
- Understand how fake news can spread
- Recognizing motivations behind fake news
- Apply critical thinking strategies to identify fake news
- Locate helpful tools and resources to identify fake news

Expansion of Personal Librarian Program

The P.L. program introduces students to key resources, tools and services available through the Library. Students in select programs are contacted by their librarian occasionally throughout the year via email.

Transfer Students

- Identified as a unique user group
- Developed custom messaging and resources for these students

Literature Review

- Email marketing & student retention

Assessment of Online Learning Objects

Evaluation

- Inventoried existing tutorials on library website
- Compared software options for future tutorial development

Focus Group

- Assisted in planning & leading student focus group on use and perceptions of existing online research help.

Tutorial Development

- Developed two new online tutorials using LibWizard
 - How to Use SuperSearch (web scale discovery tool)
 - How to Use the A-Z List of Journals