Training the Trainer
Creating an In-House Professional Development Program

During the summer of 2019, Fairleigh Dickinson University's Florham Campus Library undertook a twelve-week Training the Trainer professional development program for librarians to teach each other about current trends in academic librarianship and share individual areas of expertise. Created and lead by the Library's Associate University Librarian & Director of Public Services, the purpose of the program was to inspire her team of librarians to:
• reflect upon their teaching practices;
• embed the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education in their one-shot information literacy classes;
• and increase awareness of current pedagogical theories and practices relating to academic librarianship.

Speakers and Attendance
• Participation was mandatory for five librarians with teaching responsibilities
• Open to all other Florham Campus librarians and library staff interested in attending.
• Each of the five teaching librarians were required to present on at least one topic of their choice, with some librarians presenting up to four topics.

Schedule and Cost
• Presentations typically occurred every Tuesday at 10am over twelve weeks from late May through early August.
• Small size of the program allowed for some flexibility with scheduling in the event of previously scheduled meetings, vacation time, or other unavoidable conflicts.
• Did not interfere with teaching responsibilities and rarely impacted reference desk coverage.
• Created and developed in-house, so no financial cost to the Library:
  • No need to arrange for honoraria for outside speakers;
  • Brief one-hour-a-week schedule not significant enough to require the provision of refreshments.

Weekly Presentation Topics

| ACRL Framework – Authority is Constructed and Contextual & Information Creation as a Process |
| Google Scholar for Students |
| Legal Research |
| ACRL Framework – Information Has Value & Research as Inquiry |
| LibGuides Best Practices |
| Instructional Design for One-Shot Information Literacy Classes |
| ACRL Framework – Scholarship as Conversation & Searching as Strategic Exploration |
| WMS – WorldShare Management System |
| Special Collections and Archives |
| Media Literacy |
| Visual Aids for Information Literacy Classes – Best Practices |
| ACRL Framework – Librarian Presentations; Assessment of the Training the Trainer Program |

Assessment
An anonymous survey administered to all attendees at the end of the summer demonstrated that most of the respondents:
• Found the program too time-consuming;
• Enjoyed and valued the opportunity to improve their knowledge of library trends, teaching best practices, and useful software and technology tools;
• Appreciated the time to collaborate and exchange ideas with their colleagues;
• Were planning to incorporate many of the topics covered into their information literacy instruction.

Next Steps
• The Training the Trainer program will be held again in the summer of 2020 during a more manageable six-week period.
• A shared Professional Development Day collaborating with the librarians from both of FDU’s New Jersey campuses has also been scheduled for June 2020.
• In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing necessity for social distancing, these in-house professional development events may be moved to an online environment.

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