Creating a “new normal”: Transforming instruction for MLIS students

LINDSAY McNIFF • LEARNING & INSTRUCTION LIBRARIAN
DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY • 2015
We’ll talk about

The context
The Academic Support Series
Instructional approaches
Survey feedback
Future planning
Dal School of Information Management (SIM)

2-year MLIS program; incoming cohort of 32 in 2015
Connection with the Dalhousie Libraries is strengthening
I became permanent liaison librarian in July 2014
The SIM
Academic Support Series
Is this a conference poster which I see before me?
2 definite identified gaps

Conference posters

External funding
Academic Support Series

- Identify gaps
- Create a “brand”
- Get faculty support
Possible workshops

- Conference posters ★
- External funding ★
- Academic writing
- Contract work in academic libraries
- Health sciences librarianship
- Databases in depth
- Open Access
- RefWorks
- PubMed
- Information literacy assessment
- Online privacy
- Bibliometrics
- Finding resources (intro to searching)

Final list

- External funding
- Finding resources → mandatory
- Academic writing
- Conference posters
- Topics in academic libraries
- Bibliometrics → mandatory

Combined

Finding resources

folded into course

mandatory
Logistics

90 minutes each, 1 – 2:30pm

Computer lab, 24 capacity

Twice in September; once per month in October, November, January, February
The little things

Faculty buy-in: marks for attendance
“Subject Librarian” page on SIM website
All workshops were held in the same room
Attended orientation to speak about the workshops; provided paper handout and link to online version on subject LibGuide
Mandated registration
Promoted the workshops through social media channels
Academic Support Series
2014/2015

Provided by
Lindsey McEwen
Learning & Instruction Librarian
SIM Librarian

with thanks to Joann Watson

Note most sessions are scheduled for 60 minutes but may only run for one hour with time at the end for discussion, research help, and questions.

To register:
carol.richardson@dal.ca

External Funding

Tuesday, September 9, 11:15 – 12:15pm OR
Friday, September 12, 11:15 – 12:15pm

Looking for some extra cash to help you through the next two years? You will leave this quick information session with a list of external awards and bursaries that you might want to apply for, as well as tips to consider when deciding whether or not to apply. We will also discuss SSHRC applications and how to write a good one.

These sessions will immediately follow Lindsay’s APA Citation sessions — no need to re-register.

Finding resources with the Dal libraries’ catalogue & databases

Tuesday, September 16, 10:00 – 12:30pm OR
Tuesday, September 23, 2:30 – 5:00pm

This session will continue from the introductory demonstration provided during Orientation, offering a more hands-on introduction to some of the resources you will be using as an MLIS student. You will learn how to:
- conduct author, title, and keyword searches in the catalogue and research databases
- access print books and ebooks
- access Dal’s extensive e-journal collection
- work from sources to find specific full text articles from databases of electronic journals
- download, print, or email articles

You will also have time to ask questions about any difficulties you have had so far with the librarians’ resources.

Space is limited. Please email
carol.richardson@dal.ca to register.

Graduate academic writing

Tuesday, October 21, 10:00 – 12:30pm

This workshop will look broadly at the craft of academic writing and at some of its more technical aspects. Topics to be covered include the following:

Expectations of writing at the graduate level; process-oriented writing; the idea of giving; forming a thesis, organizing a paper; using the work of others in your writing; improving the clarity of your writing at the sentence level; paragraph construction; writing critically; common technical errors; and verb tenses in academic writing.

Please note that this is a tentative list of topics. There may be changes, depending on the interests of the class.

Space is limited. Please email
carol.richardson@dal.ca to register.

Is this a conference poster which I see before me?

Tuesday, November 18, 10:00 – 12:30pm

There are posters, and then there are conference posters. Create effective posters for your projects, research and conference presentations.

Participants will create 4’ x 6’ poster (in theory). The workshop will include setting backgrounds, inserting text (font styles and sizes), and working with images, graphs, and tables. Participants need not have any previous experience with PowerPoint.

Please note: we will discuss how to have the poster printed but we will not do printing in the workshop.

Space is limited. Please email
carol.richardson@dal.ca to register.
Instruction techniques
Instruction techniques

Catalogue searching race using Google Docs
Find.  
A better.  
Way.  

---

**Team Novanet, Round 1, 2:30-4**

1) Find a **print** book about D.H. Lawrence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Call number</th>
<th>Holding library</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2) Find an **ebook** about diary writing - must be available at Dalhousie!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3) Find a **print** book about some aspect of Victorian society.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Call number</th>
<th>Holding library</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4) Find an **ebook** about film noir - must be available at Dalhousie!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Instruction techniques

Catalogue searching race using Google Docs
Finding a thesis exercise
Getting a thesis

What is this video actually about?

Based on what evidence?

If your claim is true, why does it matter?

Thanks, as always, to Jenny Sampirisi for this one
Instruction techniques

Catalogue searching race using Google Docs
Finding a thesis exercise
Topic generator
Random topics!

http://www.tallmania.com/topic generator/topicgenerator.htm

http://ideagenerator.creativitygames.net/
From wine cork to garden gnome: An exploratory study
Lindsay McNiff, Dalhousie University

Background

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed auctor tempus, eleifend,
lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed auctor tempus, eleifend,
lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed auctor tempus, eleifend,
lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed auctor tempus, eleifend,

Methods

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed auctor tempus, eleifend,
lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed auctor tempus, eleifend,
lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed auctor tempus, eleifend,

Results

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed auctor tempus, eleifend,
lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed auctor tempus, eleifend,
lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed auctor tempus, eleifend,

Discussion

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed auctor tempus, eleifend,
lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed auctor tempus, eleifend,
lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed auctor tempus, eleifend,

References

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed auctor tempus, eleifend,
lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed auctor tempus, eleifend,
lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed auctor tempus, eleifend,

Acknowledgements

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed auctor tempus, eleifend,
lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed auctor tempus, eleifend,
lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Sed auctor tempus, eleifend,
Instruction techniques

Catalogue searching race using Google Docs
Finding a thesis exercise
Topic generator
Guided database investigation
SLIGHTLY LONGER EXERCISE 2

- Access the database assigned to you
- Using an example search of your choice, determine how to do the following (keeping notes is entirely optional):

1) Limit the date range to the last 5 years

2) Limit to peer-reviewed

3) Find the thesaurus (if there is one) and use search terms from the thesaurus to search the

4) Combine searches

5) Sort from newest to oldest

6) Create an account

Now, turn to one of the people next to you and kindly educate them on how to perform each of these functions in the database you were using. After you have finished expounding on the subject,
Instruction techniques

Catalogue searching race using Google Docs
Finding a thesis exercise
Topic generator
Guided database investigation
Lots of hands-on exercises
Humor

Pffft.
Get over it.
What happened?

Attendance was not a problem
Students promoted the workshops amongst themselves
I built a closer relationship with SIM
Academic Support Series #6: Bibliometrics

What did you find most interesting or valuable about this session?

How could I improve this session? Is there anything you wish I had covered?

Suggestions for future Academic Support Series workshops:
Program assessment – Opinio survey

Sessions attended (if not, why not?)

Was the session worth your time? Would you recommend it to incoming students?

Was there a particular workshop (or workshops) that you found to be the most worthwhile?

What was your most valuable or interesting takeaway from the Academic Support Series?

Do you feel that the Academic Support Series workshops supported your studies at SIM, your career development, your research skills, or other areas? Please comment.

Now that you have some experience as a SIM student, can you think of any additional workshops that should be added to the series?

Additional comments/suggestions
Students appreciated

Picking up transferrable skills
Learning more about their field
Learning about concepts that may have been missed in their classes
Feeling up to speed with their classmates
Feeling that the department cared about them

🌟 Hands-on learning
Students wanted to learn about

Public library careers
Advanced searching/controlled vocabularies
Grey literature
RefWorks
Giving presentations
Business databases
The ethics review process
LibGuides
Other comments

It was actually great to see Lindsay's work as an example of what a teaching librarian can do - in addition to learning the material in the workshops, there was also a meta-learning experience in watching Lindsay work.

I found the workshops helpful and informal - a nice way to learn new things one should know.

I like these little extra things because it makes me feel like SIM cares about getting us prepared for the future.

The ones I attended were not only useful, but more or less essential.
2015/2016 Series

Finding resources
RefWorks
Academic writing
Conference posters
Advanced searching/controlled vocabularies
Grey literature
Academic and public library work
Conclusions

Find the gaps
Get faculty support
Create consistency
Be creative and active with instruction
Ask for student feedback
Thank you. Questions?

lindsay.mcniiff@dal.ca