Buy low, sell high, get in now: Low-stakes/low-investment information literacy initiatives pay off big

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Experience faculty completed over the summer by first-year students, leading to positive feedback and new collaborations with faculty members during the Fall Semester. Three such collaborations with faculty members in the Political Science department resulted in a librarian-created information literacy assignment that built upon skills introduced in the summer programs, all of the assignments had a high completion rate.

The First-Year Summer Reading Assignment created heightened awareness of campus wide Information Literacy Objectives which led to opportunities for librarians in their liaison duties.

Immediate Successes

- 400 summer annotated bibliographies completed
- 95% completion rate for New Student Orientation tasks
- Positive first impressions of library and research process
- Visibility of project acts as conversation opener with faculty
- New information literacy assignments in first-year courses
- Relationship with campus entities and Orientation program expanded

The summer reading text was connected to the library orientation by emphasizing the themes of informed inquiry and social engagement, with a library information session at the center of each orientation track. Web 2.0 technology (online media & discussion) was used to reach students before arriving on campus and after completing the orientation activities.

Library orientation outcomes included positive affect goals and an introduction to services, staff, and resources, with a special effort to engage the Resident Mentor/Teacher.

Library information assignments included:
- Evaluation by faculty for a small percentage of overall grade.
- Evaluated by librarian, but not for mark.
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Students were able to use the success of the First-Year Summer Reading Assignment as leverage to propose new low-stakes/low-investment collaborations with faculty members during their Fall Semester. Three such collaborations with faculty members in the Political Science department resulted in a librarian-created information literacy assignment that built upon skills introduced in the summer programs, all of the assignments had a high completion rate.

Low Stakes Assignments

- Informal
- Low anxiety, less risk
- Little or no effect on grade
- Engaging, active learning situations
- Prepare students for higher order IL

Low Stakes and High Stakes Library Assignments

- Low Stakes:
  - Concept mapping
  - Peer editing
  - Research不准Paper
  - Annotated Bibliographies

- High Stakes:
  - Library orientation tasks
  - Research assistants
  - Bibliographic instruction
  - Annotated Bibliographies

Selected Bibliography:


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