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Embedded Online Information Literacy Using Canvas Commons

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Embedded Online Information Literacy Using Canvas Commons

Submitted by David Sye, Research & Instruction Librarian/Assistant Professor and Megan Wilson, Research & Instruction Librarian/Assistant Professor, Murray State University

As Murray State University began offering more online courses and programs, it became apparent by the spring of 2019 that the Libraries needed to address distance and online learners' information literacy needs. We were concerned about being able to reach all of the courses that needed instruction, such as courses taught in high schools through our dual credit program. We estimated that only about 30 percent of our targeted general education courses were being reached through our face-to-face instruction program. Although the Libraries previously offered online video instruction upon request, the videos lacked standardization across disciplines and were not available in all areas. In order to address these concerns, we began exploring options for developing online tutorials.

Murray State University uses Canvas as the learning management system for both online and in-person courses. The University enabled the use of Canvas Commons, Canvas's learning object repository, in 2019. This system allowed us to develop lessons that instructors could import directly into their courses, which began the following summer. We designed each module based on curriculum mapping, the Quality Matters® (QM) Higher Education Rubric, ADA accessibility, and assessment. The modules contain a mixture of text, images, and video divided into short lessons, and each module ends with a survey, which is identical to the one given in face-to-face instruction. Since the inception of this initiative, modules for sixty-one unique courses have been developed, with modules being used for multiple sections in some cases.

The rollout began during the 2019–2020 academic year, allowing the library to be well positioned when the university transitioned to online learning due to the pandemic. At the beginning of the fall 2020 semester, instructors were notified of their distance options for library information literacy instruction: live Zoom session, recorded presentation, or an online learning module. Instructors who opted for a module worked

with their subject librarian to develop content. Instructors could choose to include standardized content, such as an introduction to the library and search techniques. Librarians also added content that was specific to the course or subject area. For example, modules for business courses might include content on business research and statistics.

We used survey results to evaluate the effectiveness of the online modules. In the survey, students are asked to rate the following statements on a Likert scale (5= Agree, 1= Disagree):

- I learned something new
- I feel more confident about using library resources
- I intend to apply what I just learned

Student feedback on the modules was positive. During March 2020 to March 2021, responses (N=311) showed average ratings of 4.22 for "I feel more confident about using library resources." These feedback numbers were approximately the same as those for live Zoom sessions held from August 2020 to March 2021.

The past academic year highlighted the effectiveness of using online modules for library instruction. As this initiative was developed pre-pandemic, the design of these modules supports students learning during a semester with normal operations. While online modules should not replace in-person library instruction sessions, they provide an effective approach for online and distance learning courses.



ACRL's traveling RoadShow workshops are on hold until it's safe to resume large in-person gatherings, but we're working to bring you the same great content through virtual experiences. These "Off-RoadShows" will continue to help academic library professionals tackle the greatest issues facing the profession today. Host a multi-day virtual workshop for your library or organization! Learn more at ala.org/acrl/offroad.