Getting into the Workflow: Graduate Support Workshops

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How We Got into the Flow

• Background
• Pilot
• Expansion
• Assessment & next steps

Student studying in Memorial Library, ca. 1960
UW-Madison Context

- Graduate & professional students: 11,756
- Master’s programs: 150
- Ph.D. programs: 108
- Professional degree programs: 26

UW-Madison Commencement, 2008
(photo from University Communications)
Where We Started

• Departmental orientations
• Individual consultations
• Drop-in workshops

Knapp Graduate Center, 1964
Goals

- Reach more graduate students
- Create a more interdisciplinary approach to our services and resources
- Meet the research and professional development needs of graduate students more effectively
- Leverage our partnership with the Graduate Student Collaborative
- Strengthen our relationship with the Graduate School

Heather Taggart, ca. 1990
New Approach

• Focus on graduate students
  – Create workshops focused on the needs of graduate students
  – Market specifically to a graduate student audience

• Get into the flow
  – Build workshops around the life cycle of a graduate student
  – Focus on processes not tools
New Approach

• Create a curriculum
  – Develop workshops that build on and relate to each other
  – Market workshops as a series

• Utilize staff expertise
  – Bring together generalist and subject specialists from across disciplines
  – Partner with experts outside of the library
Memorial Library

- Principal research library on campus for humanities and social sciences
- Single largest collection in Wisconsin
- Materials in 350+ languages
- Subject specialist librarians

Students studying in Memorial Library (photo from University Communications)
Memorial Library Pilot Planning

- Brainstormed ideas:
  - Schedule
  - Topics
  - Location
  - Promotion
  - Partners
- Looked for models
- Solicited input from graduate students
Memorial Library Pilot
Spring 2009

• Four workshops: Graduate Support Series
• 1-2 workshops a month
• Tuesdays, 5-6:30 pm
• Lecture room
• Generalist and subject specialist librarians
Pilot Workshops

• Re-purposed:
  – Keeping Current with the Literature
  – Publishing Your Research

• Newly developed:
  – Compiling Literature Review: Social Sciences
  – Compiling Literature Review: Humanities
Pilot Promotion

• Library promotion
  – posters
  – Web site
  – e-mails through liaison librarians

• Graduate Student Collaborative promotion
  – Advertised through e-mails, Web site
  – Took registrations
  – Provided evaluation forms
Expanding the Program

• From one library to three
  – Expanded to include Life Science library and Engineering library

• 4 workshops to 13
  – One almost every week of the semester
Managing the Expansion

• Librarians from the participating libraries met to:
  – Develop semester schedule
  – Brainstorm ideas for publicity
  – Share workshop content
  – Coordinate registration and assessment

• Working group formed
Publicity, Promotion, Partners

• On campus partners
  – Graduate School
  – Department liaisons

• External marketing
  – Flyers
  – Posters
  – Screen savers
  – Web
Promotional Material

UW-Madison Libraries Graduate Support Series
Free Library Research Presentations for Graduate Students by Librarians

Workshops during the Spring 2010 Semester

- Compiling a Literature Review: Social Sciences
  Memorial: 4pm, 26 January

- Compiling a Literature Review: Engineering & Technology
  Wendt: 4pm, 02 February

- Keeping Current with the Literature
  Wendt: 4pm, 09 February & Memorial: 4pm, 23 March

- Compiling a Literature Review: Humanities
  Memorial: 4pm, 16 February

UW-Madison Libraries Graduate Support
workshops you need

library.wisc.edu/workshops

Compiling a Literature Review: Engineering & Technology
Tuesday, September 22nd, 4pm - 5pm
Room 108, Wendt Library

Manage Your References: An Introduction to Citation Managers
Tuesday, October 6th, 4pm - 5pm
Room 108, Wendt Library

Keeping Current with the Literature
Tuesday, October 27th, 4pm - 5pm
Room 108, Wendt Library

Publishing your Research and Managing your Copyright: Engineering
Tuesday, November 17th, 4pm - 5pm
Room 108, Wendt Library

For more workshops see:
library.wisc.edu/workshops

The Graduate Support Series is co-sponsored by the Graduate School Collaborative and the UW-Madison Libraries
New Workshops

- Finding Datasets
- Prelim Prep and Strategies for Reading List Compilation
- Compiling Literature Reviews: Engineering and Technology
- Primary Sources
- Literature Review: Introduction
Re-purposed Workshops

• Compiling Literature Reviews: Social Sciences
• Keeping Current with the Literature
• Managing Your References: An Introduction to Citation Managers
• Publishing Your Research and Managing Your Copyright: Engineering and Technology
Success!

- ~27 registrants (average)
- 13.2 attendees (average)
- Strengthened relationships
- Outside partnerships key
Status

- Master's: 37%
- Ph. D. (classes): 51%
- Ph. D. (dissertator): 10%
- PostDoc: 1%
Prior Knowledge

- Very little: 25%
- Some: 67%
- Almost everything: 9%
Other GSC Workshops Attended

- 68% attended 0 workshops
- 23% attended 1 workshop
- 5% attended 2 workshops
- 1% attended 3 workshops
- 1% attended 4 workshops
- 1% attended 4+ workshops
Learned of Session

- GSC: 55%
- E-mail: 20%
- Website: 18%
- Flyer/Poster: 16%
- GradLink@Madison: 10%
- Recommendation: 5%
- Other: 4%
- MGN: 2%
Satisfaction Rate

- Very dissatisfied: 2%
- Dissatisfied: 6%
- Neutral: 4%
- Satisfied: 63%
- Very satisfied: 26%
Next Steps

• Future workshops
  – Input from staff
  – Input from students
• Stream line planning and administration
• Alternatives to face-to-face
• Expand partnerships
• Mapping out curriculum
Summary

• **Approach**
  – Focus on group
  – Get into the workflow
    • Process not tools
    • Interdisciplinary
  – Build a curriculum
  – Market as series

• **Partnerships**
  – Utilize staff expertise, staff work together
  – Partner with groups outside library
Questions??

Credits:
All photographs from University of Wisconsin Digital Collections unless otherwise stated.