Teaming Up During a Pandemic: Using a Team-Based Workshop Series to Develop Students’ Science Information Literacy Skills

Carrie Leatherman, Natural Sciences Librarian
Western Michigan University
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Context

Western Michigan University

- Public university
- R2 Carnegie Classification
- Enrollment: 20,490 (fall 2020)
Context

Engineering, Health, and Sciences Team

Ed Eckel
Engineering and Applied Sciences Librarian

Dianna Sachs
Health and Human Services Librarian

Carrie Leatherman
Natural Sciences Librarian
In the Time of COVID-19

Three major changes:

• Majority of WMU classes moved online
• Library employees lost to budget cuts
• Library instruction switched to online only
New Needs of Library Users

Instructors
• Stressed
• Class time at a premium?

Students
• Stressed
• Less information literacy instruction?
Our hacks, methods, activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workshop Title</th>
<th>Date (2020)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The “COVID Infodemic”: Making sense of COVID-19 information</td>
<td>Sept 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science News Literacy: How to Fact Check the Sound Bites and Understand the Truth Behind the Story</td>
<td>Sept 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conducting a Literature Review in Science Disciplines</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protecting Your Digital Footprint</td>
<td>Oct 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Searching the Patent Literature</td>
<td>Oct 7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our hacks, methods, activities

Marketing:
• E-fliers to our liaison dept instructors
• Customized to dept/college interests
• Listed on libraries’ event calendar
Our hacks, methods, activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your Name (optional or use pseudonym)</td>
<td>Research topic</td>
<td>Scope criteria</td>
<td>Database 1</td>
<td>Database 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Octavia (Sample entry)</td>
<td>Deterioration Prediction Modeling for the Condition Assessment of Concrete Bridge Decks</td>
<td>Must include anything related to machine learning, 2000-2020; journals only; civil/construction eng</td>
<td>Engineering Village</td>
<td>ASCE research library</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our hacks, methods, activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workshop-Related LibGuide</th>
<th>URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Media Literacy: Science News Literature</td>
<td><a href="https://libguides.wmich.edu/MediaLiteracy/Science">https://libguides.wmich.edu/MediaLiteracy/Science</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protecting Your Digital Footprint</td>
<td><a href="https://libguides.wmich.edu/digitalfootprint">https://libguides.wmich.edu/digitalfootprint</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering – Patents</td>
<td><a href="https://libguides.wmich.edu/engineering/patents">https://libguides.wmich.edu/engineering/patents</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WMU Libraries YouTube channel

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCx3MnfIX_rS7K2rX9mTPWGA
The challenges of remote instruction

- Anticipating needed info lit skills
- Getting the word out
- Convincing students worth attending
- Adapting exercises to online instruction
- Gauging student learning in the moment
Outcomes

- Workshop series a success
- Student satisfaction
- Balance between streamlining effort, maintaining subject specificity
Sources

Slide 2.
- Map: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michigan
- Enrollment: https://wmich.edu/institutionalresearch/interactivedashboards/enrollment/data

Slide 3. Image: https://wmich.edu/library/directory
Slide 5. Image: https://wmich.edu/library
Thank you!

Questions?

carrie.leatherman@wmich.edu