Small Steps to Giant Leaps: Strategies for Creating Effective Graduate Information Literacy Programming

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Howdy!

Today we will talk about:

1) An overview of graduate information literacy program.

2) Our GIS and Data Management short courses.

3) Takeaways and future steps.
Texas A&M University Libraries

- Five libraries
- ~ 90 librarians
- Over 5 million volumes
- Serve ~ 14,000 graduate and professional students
Graduate Students

- Graduate students prefer face-to-face or online asynchronous interactions (Bussell, Hagman, & Guder, 2017)

- Also experience library anxiety (Onwuegbuzie & Jiao, 1998)

- Can suffer from imposter syndrome (Parkman, 2016)

- Graduate students are becoming part of a scholarly community. It is a process; we should not expect graduate students to be proficient at the beginning.
TAMU Graduate Information Literacy Program

1. One-shot workshops
   Stand alone workshops on a variety of topics

2. Grad orientations
   Presentations, resource fairs, and events

3. Bootcamps
   Collaborative bootcamps with university units

4. Short courses
   Same cohort meets 4-5 times on the same topic
Short Course Goals

- Create an educational opportunity where students could
  - Acquire deeper learning
  - Develop a sense of community
  - Apply skills to a project
  - See the value of the educational opportunity

- Allow instructors to explore an alternative to a one-shot workshop

- Mirror an educational experience more commonly offered in academic departments, thereby increasing university buy-in
GIS Short Course

Library GIS instruction facilitates access to geospatial data

Longstreth 1995
March and Scarletto 2017
Sweet-Singer and Williams 2001
GIS Short Course: Goals

- Spatial & data literacy concepts
- ArcGIS software navigation
- Visualization & data manipulation
- Data sources & cartography
- GIS resources
GIS Short Course: Structure

Beginner Cohort: 5 workshops x 2 hours
GIS Short Course: Experience

Used GIS before Workshop:
- Never: 51%
- A few times: 37%
- Frequently: 12%

Extensive waitlists & 50% Completion Rate
Data Management Workshop Series: Goals

Data Management Workshop Series: Structure

https://github.com/Jabble/tamu-rdm-workshops

Introduction to Research Data Management

Storage, backup, and security

http://hdl.handle.net/1969.1/164383

Good practices for storage

Keep at least 3 copies of data, in:
1. Original.
2. External copy, kept locally.
3. External copy, kept in a remote location.

Move data files to new media 2 to 5 years after first created.

Software can help

Software that automatically backs up data on a laptop, desktop, or USB drive.

Encryption

Encrypting data will help prevent loss.

Bitlocker: Whole disk encryption

FileVault: Built-in tool

Takeaways: Topics matter

- Data is a hot topic

- Topic relevance at point of need

- It’s hard to generalize across disciplines
Takeaways: Collaborate with other units
Takeaways: Demand and attendance are not the same
Takeaways: Manage expectations

- Students will not become experts within five workshops.

- Ensure that students feel a sense of accomplishment.

- Manage your own expectations.
Moving Forward: Focus on the tools (and skills)

Research data management concepts followed by hands-on experience.
Moving Forward: Format can change

- Recorded online modules

- 2-day bootcamps

- Continued experimentation and seeing what others do (Peacemaker & Rosenberry, 2017)


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