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Instruction and Focus Groups

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Instruction and Focus Groups

Abstract

My internship focuses not only on reference librarianship, but also information literacy and instruction. Accordingly, I've been fortunate to sit in on some library instruction classes with Clint. I think that the image of a librarian as a reference resource is pretty well established in our cultural consciousness, at least here at Gettysburg College, but the image of librarian as teacher is perhaps not as prominent. At some colleges and universities, however, librarians are considered part of the faculty. [*excerpt*]

Keywords

Musselman Library, Gettysburg College, Fortenbaugh Internship, Reference and Instruction

Disciplines

Information Literacy | Library and Information Science

Comments

The Interns at Gettysburg College's Musselman Library captured their internship experiences since the spring of 2011. Over time the blog has featured Fortenbaugh, Smith, and Holley interns. They shared updates on semester long projects, responded to blogging prompts, and documented their individual intern experience.

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Blogging the Library

The Interns @ Gettysburg College's Musselman Library

Instruction and Focus Groups

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

By: John Hill '13

My internship focuses not only on reference librarianship, but also information literacy and instruction. Accordingly, I've been fortunate to sit in on some library instruction classes with Clint. I think that the image of a librarian as a reference resource is pretty well established in our cultural consciousness, at least here at Gettysburg College, but the image of librarian as teacher is perhaps not as prominent. At some colleges and universities, however, librarians are considered part of the faculty.

This aspect of librarianship is vital. I look forward toward observing different librarians teach to different classes. I'm trying to take notes in case I end up giving instruction classes of my own at some point.

Another project with which I've been occupied is a series of focus groups. These focus groups consisted of students, faculty, and college employees. My own discipline, philosophy, generally does not engage with this sort of method, so I was excited to read about the different considerations and methodological issues involved in conducting focus groups. I sat in on a meeting where Mallory, Ronalee, and Clint decided which questions were relevant. It felt great to be included.

I also spent some time transcribing recorded videos of the focus groups so that we can analyze the discussions that took place and hopefully improve our services. The library aims to respond to the interests of its patrons. An analysis of these focus group sessions will help with this aim.

I am very excited to work on the Cupola, Musselman Library's open-access institutional repository. I've been reading about open-access publishing in preparation for my work after spring break. Be prepared to hear more about that soon!

<http://bloggingthelibrary2012.blogspot.com/>