Beyond Research Assistance:
Developing a Partnership with Your Embedded Librarian

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Context for Discussion

Teaching Information Literacy

- Librarians are trained to teach students about research and information literacy—how to identify, evaluate, critically select, and use information resources appropriately.
- This often takes the form of:
  - Providing one-time class presentations on how to find books and articles for your assignment
  - Creating online research guides to link students to key resources in a subject area
  - Consulting individually with students who are struggling with their research
- But these mark only the beginning of what we can do to further your students' information literacy skills…

Moving Beyond the Basics

Starting with Your Teaching Goals

- What are your priorities for students' information literacy skills development in this course?
- Where have you seen student "pain points"?
  - Where do students struggle the most in assignments that involve finding, evaluating, and synthesizing information resources?
  - Where do students seem most in need of further development in information literacy?
  - What course content items (readings, videos, etc.) seem to "click" with students, and which fail to fully engage?
- How could a librarian partner with you to address these challenges and meet your goals?

Building on Critical Concepts

- We can develop add-on modules (graded or ungraded) to drive home key information literacy concepts, such as:
  - Nature and identification of scholarly sources
  - Evaluating sources, learning to recognize authority and be wary of bias, lack of evidence, etc.
  - Formulation of strong research questions
  - Conducting comprehensive literature searches
  - …Or many other topics pertaining to critical thinking and information literacy

- Videos, interactive tutorials, quizzes—format selected to best fit the topic and your students' learning needs.

Scaffolding Research Assignments

- We can collaborate in determining how best to scaffold a research assignment to maximize student success.
- We can assist in providing constructive feedback at stages of the assignment that involve the discovery, evaluation, and critical selection of information resources.
  - Selecting a topic and formulating a research question
  - Development of search strategies and initial bibliography of sources
  - Final bibliography of sources

Reframing Research Assignments

- We can collaborate with you in reframing research assignments to:
  - Clarify assignment goals
  - Improve student understanding of how to proceed
  - Better fit the available information resources, thus setting students up for more success

Reframing Research Assignments

- Example: An existing assignment requires students to consult print issues of scholarly or trade journals in a certain field, but these are increasingly difficult to find in an age of electronic subscriptions.
- What is the actual goal to be achieved and the skills to be developed by the students?
- How could the assignment be reframed to still fulfill this goal while allowing students to leverage the library's more plentiful electronic journals?

Reframing Research Assignments

- Example: Reframing traditional research papers with a problem-based learning (PBL) approach.
  - Write an 8-10 page paper on biodiversity.
- Many students lack the foundational understanding for how to approach a traditional research paper (depending on their past experience).
  - Who is my audience? What is my ultimate purpose in writing this paper? How should I structure it?
- Reframe to provide students with a real audience, purpose, and suggested structure.
  - Prepare a proposal for your college administration outlining specific steps to help cultivate more diverse plant life on campus.

- Source: Kelly, S. (2014). Librarians, Renounce the Research Paper! Using Rhetoric to Improve Assignment Design. *College & Undergraduate Libraries*, *21*(1), 90-98. doi:10.1080/10691316.2014.877741.

Fresh Approaches to Course Content

- Supplementing Content
- How well are your students engaging with and comprehending course content such as supplemental readings and videos?
  - Monitoring understanding and confusion in Discussion Board posts
  - *Track Number of Views* in Blackboard for usage statistics
- Have you been using the same reading for years and feel it's time for something fresh?
- Working with your syllabus and goals, we can recommend additional readings and videos from library resources that will engage students with concepts from new and/or more diverse perspectives.

Fresh Approaches to Course Content

- Replacing Content
- Are your students reading the textbook? Are they even buying it?
  - 65% of students reported skipping a course textbook in 2014, despite 94% of them worrying this would harm their grade.
- We can work with you to replace your textbook with library resources and/or freely available content (such as open educational resources, OER), so that all students have a better opportunity to engage with course content, regardless of financial resources.

Conversation Is Key

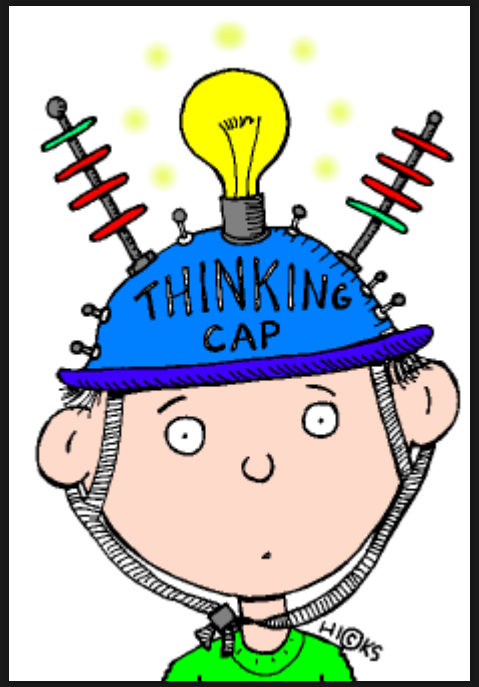
- Start a conversation with your subject librarian about your goals, priorities, and student "pain points" to begin exploring opportunities for collaboration.
  - Find your librarian at: http://library.shsu.edu/about/subject.html
- Not every subject librarian may have experience in all these areas yet, but our librarians will also collaborate to and share skills to better support your needs.

Questions?

Activity Time!

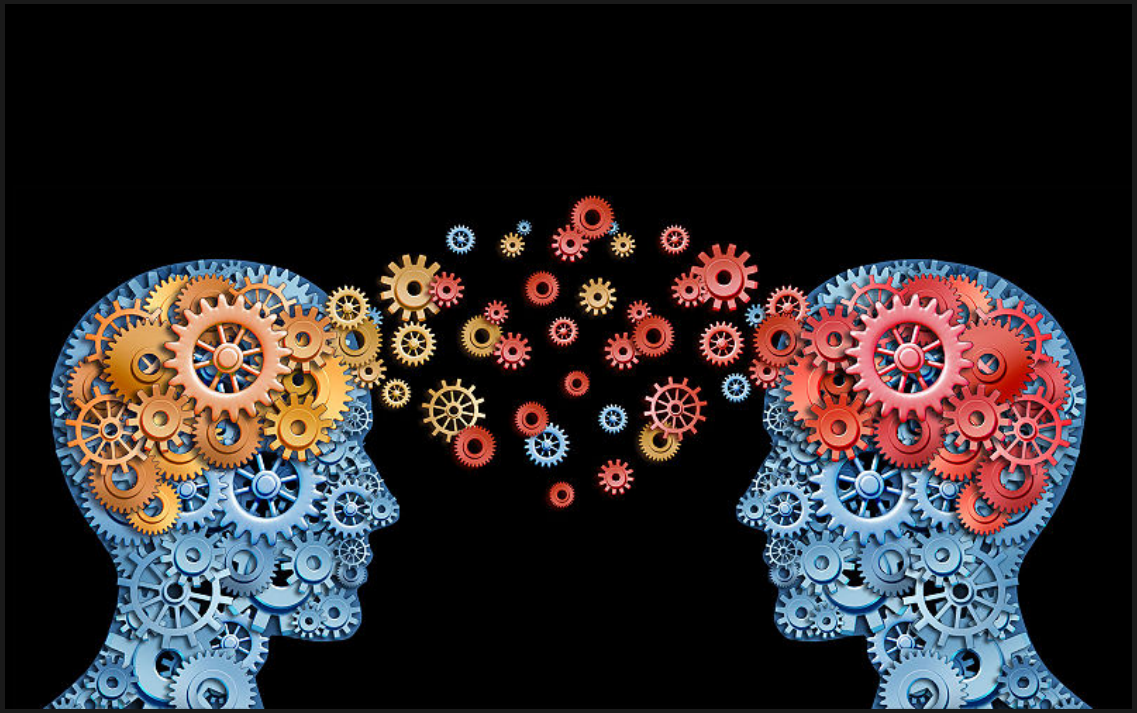
Think!

- Consider an existing aspect of your course involving information resources, information evaluation, or information literacy skills.
  - Could it be redeveloped in collaboration with an embedded librarian? How?
- Consider an aspect of your course you would like to modify to involve information resources, information evaluation, or information literacy skills.
  - Could an embedded librarian collaborate with you in this redevelopment? How?



Pair!

- Find a partner
- Discuss your course and opportunities for possible redevelopment
- Work together to address any concerns you might have



Share!

- Tell us about how you could redevelop your course in collaboration with an embedded librarian

Thank you for attending!

Image Sources

- Slide 16 - http://www.clipartpanda.com/clipart_images/discovery-clip-art-2080923
- Slide 17 - https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Knowledge-sharing.jpg
- Slide 18 - https://mobilejazz.com/blog/how-to-make-your-app-go-viral/