Building Academic Skills: Integrating Student Services at the University of Saskatchewan

SLA Conference 2019 May
Angie Gerrard, Elana Geller, Liv Marken

Why Academic Skills? A Call to Action!

- Recent study at four Ontario universities, surveyed 2,230 students

- More than half the students felt they lacked competence in basic academic skills (writing, test taking, analysis, time and group management, research, presentation and numeracy skills)

- 41% of students could be classified as *at risk* in academic settings because of limited levels of basic skills

- 16% lacked almost all of the skills needed for higher learning.

Grayson, J.P., Côté, J., Chen, L., Kenedy, R., & Roberts, S. (2019). *A call to action: Academic skill deficiencies in four Ontario universities.* Retrieved from https://skillsforuniversitysuccess.info.yorku.ca/files/2019/04/04-26-2019-AcademicSkills.pdf

Our Team

Head, Student Learning Services

Learning Specialists:

- Writing Help
- Peer Assisted Learning / Grad Help
- Math & Stats Help / Structured Study Sessions
- Study Skills / Structured Study Sessions
- First Year Experience & Learning Communities
- Graduate Writing Help

Librarians (x2):

- Information Literacy / Learning Support and Liaison

Support:

- Library Orientation & Academic Transition Assistant
- Office Coordinator & PAL Support
- Clerical Support, Programs & Services Promotion

Outcomes

By the end of this session, you will be able to:

- Identify how various student support services collaboratively develop and deliver academic skills.
- Identify challenges and opportunities with integrating units, each with their own histories, cultures, services, and programs.
- Consider the design and delivery of library services which may be perceived as non-traditional for library patrons.

Background / Context

Background / Context

- Why did we merge?

- University Learning Centre, est. 2007

- Student Learning Services, est. 2015

Challenges

1. Culture

2. Lack of understanding

From Collaboration to Integration

Outreach (*beyond the walls*) > Partnerships & Collaborations (*engagement with mutual benefits in achieving common goals*) > Full Integration

Reading with Royalty

All ages, under 6 with an adult

Spark your imagination by celebrating inclusion and diversity with family-friendly storytimes led by local drag queen and king performers.

This program celebrates diversity, encouraging children to look beyond gender stereotypes and embrace self-exploration.

Cliff Wright Branch
Saturday / Jun 15 / 3–3:45 pm

Frances Morrison Central Library
Saturday / Jun 15 / 4–4:45 pm

Presented in partnership with

Tech Stations

Ages 8–12

Learning about tech has never been easier. Code Mobile will guide kids through three stations—the free coding platform, Scratch; Makey Makey kits that turn everyday items like Play-Doh into computer keyboards; and programmable Dash Robots.

Register online, by phoning 306.975.7579 or by calling any branch four weeks before each program.

Alice Turner Branch
Thursday / Jul 18 / 1–2:30 pm

Carlyle King Branch
Tuesday / Jul 16 / 1–2:30 pm

Cliff Wright Branch
Monday / Jul 22 / 1–2:30 pm

Frances Morrison Central Library
Wednesday / Jul 10 / 1–2:30 pm

Presented in partnership with

Art Reach

Narrative Art

All ages, under 6 with an adult

Let your child's imagination run wild with this child-oriented program that inspires imaginative family art-making.

At this program, we will create artwork that tells a story.

Frances Morrison Central Library
Saturday / May 18 / 11am–1pm

Presented in partnership with

rRemai mModern

Health & Wellness
Kids Cook Soup

Ages 8–12

Learn together how to cook soup. Over four weeks we will try new recipes while learning universal cooking skills. You will learn about measuring ingredients, food safety, knife skills and safety, allergens, table setting, tasting and cleanup.

Mayfair Branch
Wednesdays / May 8 – May 29 / 4 – 6 pm
Register for the series online, by phoning 306.975.7591 or by calling any branch four weeks before the first program.

Presented in partnership with

chep *good food inc.*

Special Event
LEARN TO CAMP

Are you interested in camping but don't know where to begin? Parks Canada team members will introduce participants to basic camping and outdoor living skills.

Bring the whole family.

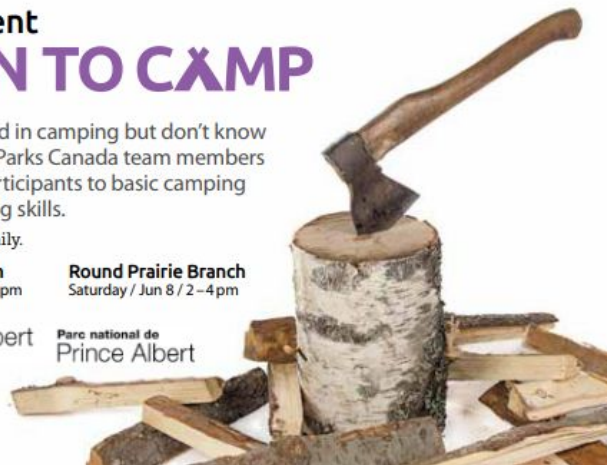**Alice Turner Branch**
Saturday / May 25 / 2 – 4 pm

Round Prairie Branch
Saturday / Jun 8 / 2 – 4 pm

Presented in partnership with

Prince Albert
National Park

Parc national de
Prince Albert

saskatoonlibrary.ca

Potential Paths of Integration

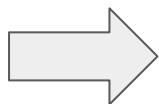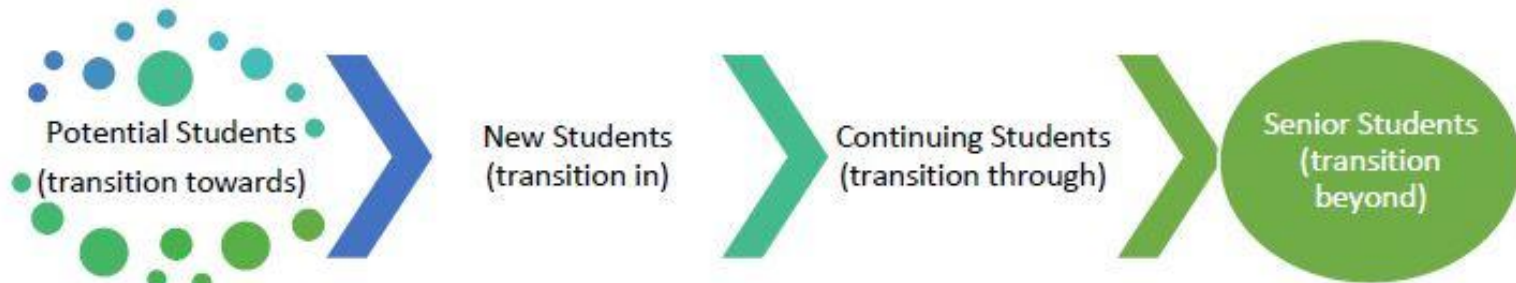Passive > **SLS + Library**

Active > **SLS = Library**

"Collaborative Imperative" Ward and Raspa (2000)

"We know that standard practices from the past do not suffice. They do not help much to deal with the complexities of contemporary life, nor with the realities of information. Old borders separating disciplines along departmental lines are blurring … The old, fragmented view of disciplinary practice cannot deal with the complexity of social issues today" (pg. ix)
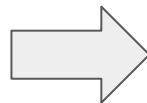
Collaborative Student Support Services

Our Journey to an Integrated Model of Collaboration

Student Learning Framework: Mapped to Learning Charter and student lifecycle model (A. Lizzio, 2011)

Potential Students (transition towards)

New Students (transition in)

Continuing Students (transition through)

Senior Students (transition beyond)

Core Purpose Document

Programs and services going forward...

Programs and Services

- Academic Skills Development
- Structured Study Sessions
- Learning Communities
- Peer Assisted Learning (PAL)

Staff and Peer Mentors

- Writing and Math Help

Staff and Tutors

Academic Skills Development

The Academic Skills Development program provides learning opportunities throughout the academic year and changes as the term progresses. To get the help they need, when they need it, students can participate in orientations, workshops, and find online resources related to the topics below.

Jump Start Your Learning

Smart Start for Success

Keeping on Track

Gearing Up to Finish Up

Bounce Back

Opportunities

- Seamless experience
  - E.g., Essay assignments: psycho-educational dimension, reading skills, research, writing, editing, proofreading….even printer and stapling!
- Improved resources
- Synergies and expertise
- Diversity
- Ability to communicate across campus: we are seen as "learning support folks"

Our Team

1. Core staffing model
   a. Expertise
   b. Experience

2. Why it is successful

3. Collaborations & Partnerships
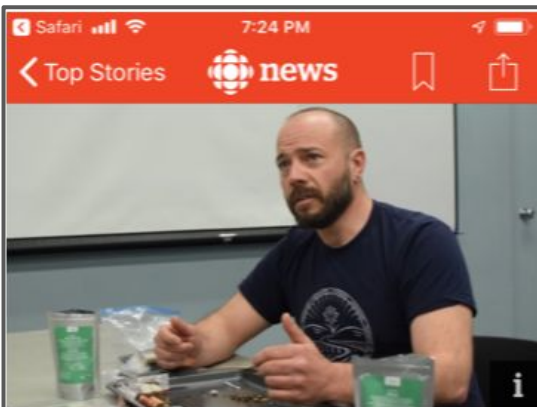
Going Forward

Designing & Delivering Perceived 'Non-Traditional' Library Services

Discussion

1. What are some perceived non-traditional services or programs offered in your library?
2. What have been some of your challenges and opportunities?

‹ Top Stories 📺 news

Reading, researching, joint-rolling: Saskatoon library holds cannabis education event

Reducing stigma, safer use, talking to kids about cannabis among topics discussed

Posted: April 13, 2019 3:11 PM CST
Last Updated: 4 hours ago

Alicia Bridges, CBC News

A year ago it was illegal. Now, rolling a joint is something you can learn to do at your local library — as long you use tea leaves instead of the real thing.

PAWS Your Stress

April 18, 2019

EVENTS

Take time to de-stress with St. John Ambulance's Therapy Dogs!

Outreach Workers at SPL

Would you like assistance with a difficult or sensitive personal issue? Wondering what local organizations are available to provide support? Or maybe you just want someone to talk to?

Whatever your situation, Saskatoon Public Library's outreach workers are here to help. They can listen, give information and provide referrals to a number of community organizations that provide specialized assistance in many different areas.

If you would like to meet with an outreach worker, please drop in and ask any employee at the Frances Morrison Central Library or contact us at 306.657.8556, 306.657.8768 or outreach@saskatoonlibrary.ca.

St. Michael's Hospital ✓
about 4 years ago

The Toronto Public Library and St. Michael's Hospital teamed up to launch the Reach Out and Read program which aims to improve child literacy. Caillou made a special appearance at the event held at St. Michael's Health Centre at 80 Bond St.
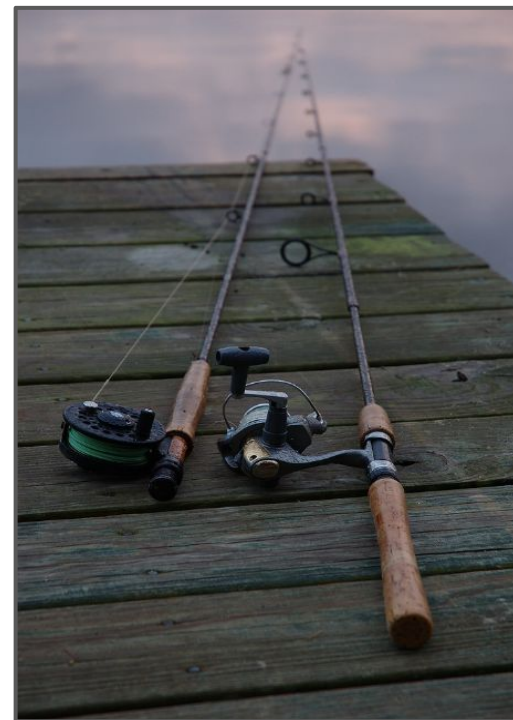
http://bit.ly/1CuSIrJ

+7

👍 27   💬 Comment   ↪ 6

Family Admission Pass

rRemai mModern
rRemai mModern
rRemai mModern
rRemai mModern
rRemai mModern
rRemai mModern
rRemai mModern
rRemai mModern

Saskatoon Library
@stoonlibrary

You can now borrow a membership to Remai Modern at SPL! We have launched a pilot project, in partnership with the museum, where family passes can be signed out from four SPL locations: the central library, Carlyle King Branch, Dr. Freda Ahenakew Branch & Mayfair Branch.

♡ 72   5:00 PM - Feb 12, 2019

💬 43 people are talking about this

PLEASE TAKE ONLY 4 PACKETS OF SEEDS TOTAL

FREE SEEDS

MISCELLANEOUS SEED

PLEASE HELP YOUR

Summary

- Need for Academic Skills
- Focus on learner centered
- Collaboration to integration
- Challenges & opportunities

As with any organization, the success of a merged IT and library lies with the people involved. The structure itself is not going to create space for collaboration. It takes clear, effective, and courageous leadership, providing flexibility for people to do their best work together. Merging IT and libraries is not a catchall answer to solve any number of individual issues facing both of these professional communities, but it does open communication for how each group wishes to consider their future, which will most likely be together rather than separately.

SLS

SLS

Bell, C., & White, A. (2017). Libraries and IT: The merged road ahead. In Albitz, B., Avery, C., & Zabel, D. (Eds.), *Leading in the new academic library* (pp. 13-21). Santa Barbara, California: Libraries Unlimited.

Questions / Comments

References

Bell, C., & White, A. (2017). Libraries and IT: The merged road ahead. In Albitz, B., Avery, C., & Zabel, D. (Eds.), *Leading in the new academic library* (pp 13-21). Santa Barbara, California: Libraries Unlimited.

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Lizzio, A. (2011). The student lifecycle: An integrative framework for guiding practice. Retrieved from
http://app.griffith.edu.au/assessment-matters/pdfs/student-lifecycle-framework.pdf

Raspa, D., & Ward, D. (Eds.). (2000). *The collective imperative: Librarians and faculty working together in the information universe*. Chicago, IL: Association of College and Research Libraries.

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