Wild Goose Chase or Effective Library Instruction?

A Change of Approach to Library Instruction for First Year Students.

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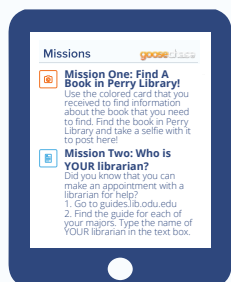Virginia Library Association Annual Conference, 2019

Problem

Impact Learning Community courses at ODU consist of first semester freshman who are grouped together by major or academic need. Faculty for these courses often requested tours of the ODU Libraries, however, these large group lecture-style tours are not ideal for effectively teaching our students *how* to use the services and resources provided by the Libraries or for meeting them at the point of academic need. The goal of this project is to provide an active learning experience for students so that they will retain and use what they learn throughout their freshman year and beyond.

Active Learning Solution

A librarian and two faculty members received an internal grant from the University's Center for Learning and Teaching to create and implement a virtual and physical treasure hunt to teach first semester freshman how to find and use library services and resources.
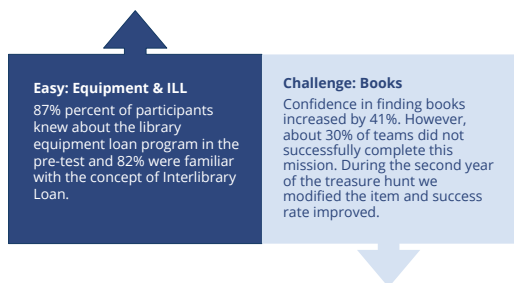
Logistics

Missions goosechase

Mission One: Find A Book in Perry Library!
Use the colored card that you received to find information about the book that you need to find. Find the book in Perry Library and take a selfie with it to post here!

Mission Two: Who is YOUR librarian?
Did you know that you can make an appointment with a librarian for help?
1. Go to guides.lib.odu.edu
2. Find the guide for each of your majors. Type the name of YOUR librarian in the text box.

Goosechase
Goosechase was inexpensive and required use of only one app for facilitating the activity as well as collecting and assessing responses.

Games
Took place during regularly scheduled class time (50 or 75 minutes)
Classes split into teams of 2-4
Each game included 10 missions
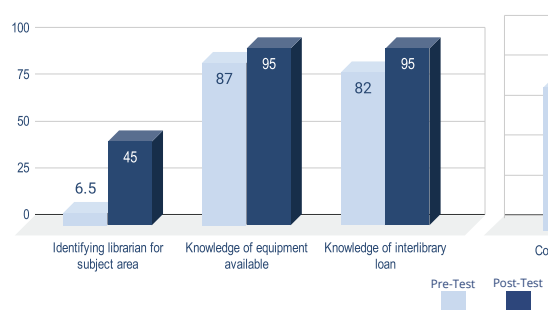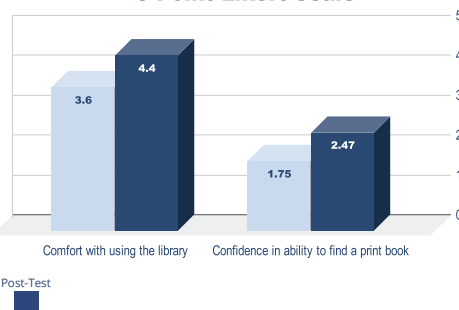Missions required submission of text or photo

Assessment Highlights

Easy: Equipment & ILL
87% percent of participants knew about the library equipment loan program in the pre-test and 82% were familiar with the concept of Interlibrary Loan.

Challenge: Books
Confidence in finding books increased by 41%. However, about 30% of teams did not successfully complete this mission. During the second year of the treasure hunt we modified the item and success rate improved.

Knowledge of Library Services

	Identifying librarian for subject area	Knowledge of equipment available	Knowledge of interlibrary loan
Pre-Test	6.5	87	82
Post-Test	45	95	95

Confidence & Comfort 5-Point Likert Scale

	Comfort with using the library	Confidence in ability to find a print book
Pre-Test	3.6	1.75
Post-Test	4.4	2.47

Total Budget
$1620

Tablets & Cases $1,580

GooseChase Annual Subscription $40

Student & Faculty Perceptions

"I liked moving and learning, instead of just sitting in the classroom."

"It was very engaging and taught me a lot. I learned how to seek help and how/where to find sources."

"I can now confidently find the books I'm looking for."

"The scavenger hunt was a great way to introduce my students to the library!"

"They are much less intimidated now!"

"Fun and engaging! This session is critical to the success of these first year students!"

Final Takeaways

- Though many academic libraries shy away from "treasure hunts," when done well, they can provide an effective, active learning experience for classes that do not have a research assignment.

- Students were most focused and excited during the first few weeks of the semester.

- Selecting a single app that enabled downloading of student responses helped to streamline the assessment process.

- Collaborating with faculty during the creation and evaluation process is key to gaining buy-in and ongoing participation.

References & Inspiration

Leon, J. A., & Lindsey, R. (2018). Wild goosechase: Launching library tours with a mobile app. In LOEX Annual Conference. http://www.loexconference.org/2018/sessions.html#LeonLindsey

Harrington, A., & Libby, G. (2017). Treasure hunt in the library: Raiders of the lost AR(k). Poster session. The Innovative Library Classroom Conference. https://www.slideshare.net/TheILC/treasure-hunts-at-the-library-raiders-of-the-lost-ark

Link to poster bit.ly/activelearningstudy