Nth time’s a charm:
Library programming for upper-year students in residence

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Place & Practice
Presentation outline

- Residence: Charted territory
- Pitch by Residence Life
- How we responded
- Reflections
- Your thoughts
Residence: Charted territory

We’ve been here before.
University of Illinois: [https://housing.illinois.edu/resources/residence-hall-libraries](https://housing.illinois.edu/resources/residence-hall-libraries)
Example bibliography


Example bibliography


Example bibliography


Table II.
Library use, help-seeking habits and student status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>18-22 age group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New (n = 53)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library visits (at least once/wk)</td>
<td>2.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library web site visits (at least once/wk)</td>
<td>2.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asked for librarian help</td>
<td>2.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confident without help</td>
<td>3.19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Averages on a scale of 1-5 where 1 = strongly disagree and 5 = strongly agree.

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Table III.
Location preference for research assistance and student status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Overall (n = 216)</th>
<th>18-22 age group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New (n = 53)</td>
<td>Returning (n = 145)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student center</td>
<td>3.48</td>
<td>3.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence halls</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>3.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other campus buildings</td>
<td>3.27</td>
<td>3.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More convenient location instead of library</td>
<td>3.27</td>
<td>3.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: Averages on a scale of 1-5 where 1 = strongly disagree and 5 = strongly agree
Example bibliography


“The paucity of outreach efforts to residence halls may be explained partly by a fastidious reluctance on the part of librarians to intrude.” (Strotmann & Antell, 2010)
Strothmann & Antell – Success?

- Worked closely with RAs on promotion
- Located “Research Rescue” in residence social lounge
Example bibliography


2. Pitch by Residence Life
Student Life Cycle Model

- Connectedness
- Capability
- Purpose
- Resourcefulness
- Academic culture

https://emedia.rmit.edu.au/tito/content/student-lifecycle-model
Two streams of programming

- First-year students: straight out of high school
  - Sense of connectedness

- Upper-year students: have chosen to live in a Dal residence for a second time
  - Sense of purpose and resourcefulness

Credit: Dalhousie ResLife
3 programming goals (ResLife)

- Expose students to professional staff from the libraries, building personal connection with people from the libraries
- Promote awareness of what the libraries can provide
- Provide direct library service in residence
3.

How we responded
Simple promotion of library services in residence

- Poster for hallways
- Entry in ResLife email newsletter
- Liaison profiles for Instagram and residence TV screens
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Can answer questions about research in
- English
First-year residence: Pop-up library
Upper-year residence

- Research assistance drop-ins
  - 7-9pm, Sunday evenings
  - Promoted by Reslife
First-floor RA office

We relocated and started getting more questions.
Instruction sessions on finding resources & APA

actual turnout

Photo credit: Indigo Christ
Winter term

- Research drop-ins at 3 residence halls, two-hour shifts, twice in March
Photo credits: Jennifer Lambert; Gwen MacNairn
4.

Reflections
Reflections: Instruction


- Branded series?
- More promotion?
- Food???
Reflections: Reference

- Nearly all questions were about citations
- We also had questions that were not well-suited to the reference desk
- We answered directional questions about the library
Library as place
How about you?

- Are you doing anything interesting in residence?
- Did anything from this presentation give you ideas about programs that might (or might not) work in your context?
Thanks!

Any questions?
You can find me at

- lindsay.mcniff@dal.ca
- @mellemic
Credits

Thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

- Presentation template by SlidesCarnival
- Icons from the Noun Project Pro

Thanks to the following excellent Dal people:

- Indigo Christ
- Jamal Nickie
- Marlo MacKay
- Joan Chaisson, Jennifer Lambert, Gwen MacNairn, Julie Marcoux, Sarah Stevenson