

Taking Information Literacy to Campus Partners: Research Assistance Hours with the Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Education

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Project Description

In a pilot collaboration with the Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Education (OMSE), walk in research assistance hours are now offered for three hours, once a week. The pilot has been running for eight weeks and will conclude at the end of the semester.

Why?

Why OMSE? OMSE has a well established and well used tutoring program. In taking research assistance to OMSE, students can access library assistance in an environment where they are already seeking out other academic assistance.

Why Research Assistance? The University of Maryland is committed to ensuring the success of its diverse populations. Working within existing structures to support these populations, research assistance increases the accessibility of information literacy instruction. This targeted partnership can provide skill to help students excel throughout their academic careers.

Suggestions

More data collection – initially, only demographic information was collected to ascertain use; missed the opportunity for data on impact and suggestions.

Marketing – had consistent participation with only one email blast, but additional advertising (more emails, flyers and word of mouth) could have broadened the reach of the pilot.

Research Assistance

with Teaching and Learning Services
Tuesdays, 2-5pm
in OMSE, 1101 Hornbake

We can help you with



Using Databases



Finding Articles



Focusing Your Topic



Defining Research Questions



Evaluating Sources



Citing Sources

**Any subject, any class, any assignment.
We can help.**

Drop-in assistance.
No appointment necessary.

Questions?
Email libues@umd.edu
Call 301-405-5616 or 301-405-9120

Observations

Eager partners – OMSE was a very eager partner. They were delighted to work with the Libraries and even incorporated library services into their tutor training. Staff lacked awareness of what the libraries could do, preventing them from reaching out. It is necessary for Libraries to make their services known and reach out to potential partners.

Different levels of library experience – Some of the students who attended the hours had library instruction and were comfortable with the resources. Others had less experience and comfort levels. Students of all levels took advantage of the service and found it to be a useful resource.

Next Steps

- Meeting with OMSE staff to discuss feedback and findings and incorporating into OMSE “points” system for students
- Discussions with Teaching and Learning Services and University Libraries about where the program can live
- Follow up survey to participating students for additional feedback on impact and suggestions for implementation

Questions? Contact Faith Rusk at frusk@umd.edu

At-A-Glance

Number of Students Served: 7

Number of Courses Assisted with: 7

Number of Repeat Customers: 1

Demographics*:

100% Female

75% have declared their major

Library Instruction:

50% had not visited the library for a class
25% visited the library for a different class
25% visited the library for the class they were seeking assistance with

*Percentages are based on survey responses



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