

Teaching future librarians in the distance learning environment

Jason Holmes, Ph.D.
School of Library and Information Science
Kent State University

May 25, 2005

My background

- Reference librarian at U. of Evansville
- Instructional designer in distance learning at University of North Texas
- Taught in DL program at LSU-SLIS
- Currently teaching in 12-12-12 DL program at KSU - SLIS

KSU-SLIS 12-12-12 program

- 12 credit hours by videoconference the first year
- 12 credit hours by videoconference the second year
- 12 credit hours to pick up via web courses, transfers, workshops, and culminating experience

KSU-SLIS 12-12-12 program sites

- Fall 2001
 - Byesville, Cincinnati, Bowling Green
- Fall 2002
 - Wellston, Clermont, Toledo
- Fall 2003
 - Wellston, Clermont, Toledo
- Fall 2004
 - Lorain, Franklin, Mansfield (NCOCC)
- Fall 2005
 - Lorain, Cincinnati, Portsmouth (Shawnee State U.)

[12-12-12 program outcomes]

- 74 graduates!
- > 105 currently enrolled

[Why?]

- Fulfill mission of SLIS to stakeholders
- Feasible (OhioNet/OARnet)
 - Mostly videoconference, not web-based
- Desirable
- Growth potential

[Ohio is special]

- OhioLink
- KSU reference – chat, email, phone
- Knowitnow24x7

- University of North Texas
- Louisiana State University

[Consequences - pro]

- Deliver education to those who desire it where they need it
- More librarians throughout Ohio
- Generate \$\$ to sustain SLIS

[Consequences - con]

- Student dissatisfaction
 - Technological
 - Pedagogical
- Faculty burnout and/or dissatisfaction
- Large class sizes (administrative expectations)
- Disconnect with students
- Even more librarians out on the job market!

[Role of librarian in DL]

- Consult with faculty in use of available information resources
- Provide special services required of DL students
 - Document delivery
 - Reference
 - ILL
- And more this afternoon
- Unfortunately...

[...there are usually problems.]

- Library services to DL students and faculty are frequently:
 - Assumed to be there (it's all on the Internet, right? No? But at least it's electronic, right? License? What do you mean, license?)
 - An afterthought by the academic unit for the program and/or the instructor of a particular course

[So librarians must...]

- Learn how and why DL is delivered
 - Web
 - Videoconference
 - Video on demand
- Stay involved through liaison relationships
- Be proactive!
- Anticipate problems
- Be flexible (policies and personally)

Professional education using DL

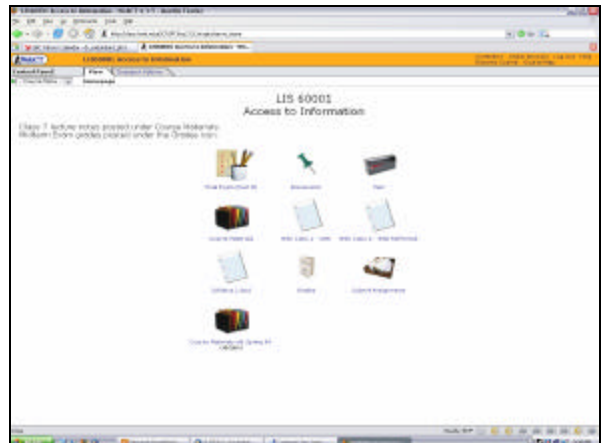
- Preparing future librarians for the future of libraries
- Virtual, synchronous, networked communication for learning will also be used professionally
- They use the tools to learn they will later use as librarians

But...

- Students lack “hallway” education
 - At least with the faculty
 - Who knows what they learn from each other
- Enculturation?
- Changing role of faculty

Wish list

- Better technology for virtual community building
- Better interaction with students
- Better feedback from students
- Better evaluation techniques



Title	Author	Call Number	Index
Class 1 Introduction	J. J. Jones	QA 101 .J63	QA 101 .J63
Class 2 Introduction	J. J. Jones	QA 102 .J63	QA 102 .J63
Class 3 Introduction	J. J. Jones	QA 103 .J63	QA 103 .J63
Class 4 Introduction	J. J. Jones	QA 104 .J63	QA 104 .J63
Class 5 Introduction	J. J. Jones	QA 105 .J63	QA 105 .J63
Class 6 Introduction	J. J. Jones	QA 106 .J63	QA 106 .J63
Class 7 Introduction	J. J. Jones	QA 107 .J63	QA 107 .J63
Class 8 Introduction	J. J. Jones	QA 108 .J63	QA 108 .J63
Class 9 Introduction	J. J. Jones	QA 109 .J63	QA 109 .J63
Class 10 Introduction	J. J. Jones	QA 110 .J63	QA 110 .J63

Title	Author	Call Number	Index
Class 1 Introduction	J. J. Jones	QA 101 .J63	QA 101 .J63
Class 2 Introduction	J. J. Jones	QA 102 .J63	QA 102 .J63
Class 3 Introduction	J. J. Jones	QA 103 .J63	QA 103 .J63
Class 4 Introduction	J. J. Jones	QA 104 .J63	QA 104 .J63
Class 5 Introduction	J. J. Jones	QA 105 .J63	QA 105 .J63
Class 6 Introduction	J. J. Jones	QA 106 .J63	QA 106 .J63
Class 7 Introduction	J. J. Jones	QA 107 .J63	QA 107 .J63
Class 8 Introduction	J. J. Jones	QA 108 .J63	QA 108 .J63
Class 9 Introduction	J. J. Jones	QA 109 .J63	QA 109 .J63
Class 10 Introduction	J. J. Jones	QA 110 .J63	QA 110 .J63

Discussion questions

- Is the DL environment conducive to professional education?
- Is it absolutely essential that faculty and students in the distance learning environment have access to a library?
- What do you think the role of libraries and librarians should be in supporting DL?

Thank you

You may download this presentation at
<http://faculty-L.slis.kent.edu/~jholmes/presents/>