An Academic Flipped Classroom Model

Jennifer Hootman

For a few years now the flipped classroom has been a pedagogical hot topic in the library and teaching professions. Though much has been written and discussed on the topic, academic models particularly for graduate students are not as easy to find. The concept itself is fairly simple – self-paced, online instruction that occurs outside the classroom prepares the student to engage in hands-on learning activities in the classroom. Implementing the concept in a meaningful way, however, takes a good deal of planning and preparation. University of Minnesota librarians Lisa Johnston and Jon Jeffryes have done just that. Last fall semester (2013) they offered an extracurricular (noncredit) Data Management Workshop Series to University of Minnesota graduate students. It was advertised as a “Flipped Classroom” series that included seven online video lessons (each 3-9 minutes long) and five (one hour long) in-person workshop sessions. Overall the series was successful with the students and instructors who gave the librarians positive feedback for improvements. Johnston and Jeffryes invite you to take a look at their materials and feel free to use them in whatever way works for you. To learn more about the workshop series, read their article in C&RL News.
Laugh and Then Think: 2014 Ig Nobel Prizes

Matt Lee

If you were going to describe the Ig Nobel Prizes to a professional colleague you might use this quote, which serves as the organization’s motto: “Research that makes people laugh and then think.” If, however, you were describing it to friends or family, this other quote (which is featured on the organization’s website) is a little more colorful: “It’s a collection of, like, actual Nobel Prize winners giving away prizes to real scientists for doing f’d-up things… it’s awesome.”

It is awesome. And the 2014 Ig Nobel Prizes were just awarded this September 18th at Harvard. Several of the winning research papers are available via ELM:

The Public Health Prize was awarded for “investigating whether it is mentally hazardous for a human being to own a cat:”


The Biology Prize was given for “carefully documenting that when dogs defecate and urinate, they prefer to align their body axis with Earth’s north-south geomagnetic field lines:”


The Medicine Prize was awarded for “treating ‘uncontrollable’ nosebleeds, using the method of nasal-packing-with-strips-of-cured-pork:”

Some of the other awarded research is pretty specialized (natch) so it’s only available in more specialized scholarly databases. But even the citations are worth a look.

The Art Prize, for example, was given “for measuring the relative pain people suffer while looking at an ugly painting, rather than a pretty painting, while being shot [in the hand] by a powerful laser beam.” I feel like I’ve been to museums like that. The Neuroscience Prize winner was awarded “for trying to understand what happens in the brains of people who see the face of Jesus in a piece of toast.” Besides awe, I guess?

You might laugh, you might think, and you might use these research reports as a fun intro to library database content for your students or researchers.

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What’s on the Horizon for Ebooks?

Carla Pfahl

Matt Enis reported on the statewide Massachusetts State Ebook Project in The Digital Shift recently and highlighted the planned ebook lending platform, staff training for the pilot, and patron feedback. While 97% of staff stated that they knew their library was participating in the pilot, it was a mixed bag of responses as to whether they were prepared for it. Patron feedback highlighted the confusion of logging in and accessing different platforms, but overall, almost 90% of patrons were able to find and download an ebook. Massachusetts plans to continue the project after the pilot evaluation and states that libraries will have to pay for access eventually.

Massachusetts has set the stage for statewide/collaborative ebook collections and their pilot will be reviewed as a possible path for other states and collaboratives to follow. Our own Minitex Director, Valerie Horton, and State Librarian, Jennifer Nelson, will be sharing the stage for an MLA session in Mankato about the future of statewide ebooks in Minnesota. What are your thoughts for establishing a program for collaborative, shared digital access to ebooks? Valerie and Jen will share what has been happening and encourage input from session attendees.
Here's more information about their session at MLA. Join the lively discussion:

**What’s Next for MN eBooks? A Better Together Follow-Up to the Summit**

Valerie Horton, Director, Minitex | Jennifer Nelson, Director/State Librarian, State Library Services, Minnesota Department of Education

*Thursday, October 9, 8:00-9:00am*

A statewide webinar series and summit concerning the future of eBooks in Minnesota libraries were held in the Spring and Summer of 2014. Leaders of these educational planning sessions will provide additional information and collect feedback concerning the outcomes of the collaborative effort. Attend this session and help determine how Minnesota libraries can provide stronger access to virtual content by working Better Together.


**Join Us at MLA**

*Carla Pfahl*

Reference Outreach & Instruction will be at MLA in Mankato October 8th and 9th. If you plan to attend, stop by the Minitex booth in the exhibit hall and say “Hi!” We always enjoy talking with folks from around Minnesota and catching up on what is happening at your library.

ROI and CPERS librarians are also presenting at MLA. Anne Hatinen and cohorts return with another installment of the popular Live Banned Books. Look for them in their costumes!

Catch us in the following sessions:
Tips, Tools, and Tricks: Increasing Usage and Improving Value of the User Experience in Virtual Reference Services

Greg Argo, Associate Director and Systems Librarian, Concordia University, St. Paul  |  Merrie Davidson, Research and Instruction Librarian, University of St. Thomas  |  Karen Pundsack, Associate Director of Patron Services, Great River Regional Library; Adjunct Reference Librarian, St. Cloud State University  |  Jill Smith, Adult Services Manager, Anoka County Library  |  Carla Pfahl, Reference Outreach & Instruction Librarian, Minitex

Wednesday, October 8, 10:00-11:00am

Whether your library is thinking of starting a virtual reference service, is new to virtual reference, or has had a service for several years, capturing a patron's point and time of need is key to the viability of the service. Join seasoned librarians as they share their experiences in enhancing their virtual reference service to increase usage and encourage an exceptional virtual reference experience for their patrons. Librarians will review service and technical options, marketing techniques, widget placements, and assessment procedures that have made a positive effect on their virtual reference services.

Check Urself B4 U Wreck Urself: Best Practices for Video Conferencing

Jennifer Hootman, Minitex Reference Outreach & Instruction Librarian  |  Rita Baladad, Minitex, Electronic Resources Librarian  |  Dan Reeves, Rasmussen College, Blaine Campus Librarian and Instructor

Thursday, October 9, 9:15-10:15am

Video has become an engaging and dynamic way to deliver instruction, convey messages, and foster collaboration. With just a webcam, anybody can set up a video meeting in just a few minutes. However, delivering meaningful content that grabs the attention of your audience via the web requires thoughtful planning and practice. In this session, you'll learn about video conferencing software; applications for using video as a communication tool; and tips on video etiquette. Join us as we share our approaches, best practices, and experiences using this growingly pervasive medium.

Living Banned Books

Jennifer Turner, Instructional Services Librarian, Minnesota State University, Mankato  |  Anne Hatinen, Electronic Resources Librarian, Minitex  |  Heidi Southworth, Digital Initiatives Librarian, Minnesota State University, Mankato  |  Alyssa Inniger, Interim Director and eResources &
Reference Librarian, Bethany Lutheran College | Ramsey Turner, Circulation and Inter-library Loan Coordinator, Bethany Lutheran College

Thursday, October 9, 10:15-11:15am

Learn about banned books from the books themselves! Celebrate intellectual freedom at this “living banned books” session, where books come to life to explain what they’re about, who wrote them, and why they’ve been banned. Attendees will be encouraged to stroll through the session and visit with the “books.” Additionally, each “book” will provide participants with take-away information to use as inspiration for banned book events in their own communities. This session has rocked with past two conferences with different books each year and will enliven the 2014 conference with a fresh ensemble of banned books and new ideas for take-aways participants can share with audiences of all ages at libraries across the state.

View the full MLA Conference schedule here.

Everything You Need for ELM This Fall

As you work your way through fall, remember that we support all aspects of the ELM databases. We’re eager to help with any questions you have.

ELM Set-Up

Find everything you need to set up ELM links on your website at http://minitex.umn.edu/Elm/. That includes database descriptions, links to all of the ELM databases to place on your website, and guidance on gathering usage statistics.

You can also link to the ELM portal, and let us maintain and manage all of those database links and take care of user authentication. You might also consider using ELM Personalized, which lets you customize a page on the ELM portal for your library to display the databases you want for your library users.

ELM Support
Use our ELM Support form for any questions on ELM, from the set-up options and process to database content to technical troubleshooting.

We're also piloting an online office hours service this fall on Wednesday mornings. Use this to drop in and ask a question or get help with a resource.

**ELM Instruction**

We provide online instruction on a number of topics related to ELM. Check out our upcoming scheduled webinars. We've got webinars on LearningExpress Library, History Day, the new Kids InfoBits, Google and students, and more. If you have a group that would benefit from ELM instruction, we'd be happy to provide a customized session either in-person or online – just fill out our instruction request form.

You can access the ELM Learning Center at any time. It contains materials to help you learn more about ELM, including short videos, hands-on activities, one-page fact sheets, interactive tutorials, and recorded webinars. We've also just launched the ELM Information & Learning Commons, which you can read more about elsewhere in this issue of Reference Notes.

**ELM Promotion**

We provide educational brochures and bookmarks to help you share ELM with your library users. These are free of charge. Just fill out the order form and we'll mail them to you.

**ELM Feedback**

Finally, we wanted to remind you of our ELM Stories link. Please encourage your library users to share feedback on how they've used ELM at school, in the workplace, or in their lives in general. These stories help to inform our service and to tell legislators, administrators, and others why ELM is valued and valuable.

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Your Interactive eCommons

Live Database Practice
Webinars, Hangouts, & Office Hours
ELM Support
Videos
Results
Advanced Searching
Management
Set Up
Discussion Group
ELM Links
Basic Searching
Gathering
ELM Content
Usage Statistics
Review

Info & Learning Commons

Learn - Share - Participate
z.umn.edu/elmcommons
Explore the ELM Information & Learning Commons.

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LearningExpress Job & Career Accelerator

Beth Staats

Last month in Reference Notes I highlighted the content available in all of the LearningExpress Library centers available via ELM. This month I thought I would highlight the features, specific tools, and content available in Job & Career Accelerator (JCA), which is available via LearningExpress Library. Whether you work in a public or academic library, JCA is a resource that any patron looking for a job can greatly benefit from. It integrates everything one needs to find a job or specific occupation.

The Dashboard, within JCA, acts as a personal job search management center. It keeps track of everything, from job searches you've run within the database, to resumes and cover letters you've created. It also lets you create and keep track of tasks and allows you to send email reminders to yourself in order to meet deadlines. The Dashboard also keeps track of your occupation matches, which is the result of the Occupation Matcher. This is a 60 question assessment tool developed by the U.S. Department of Labor and is scored in 6 key interest categories. Occupations are matched to your personal interests.

The Explore Occupations section offers information on over 1,100 careers and occupations using current data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Each occupation within this section contains what is called an Occupation Card. For example, I can access an Occupation Card for Dental Assistant and view a summary of the occupation, wages (which can be viewed by state), and trends including projected growth and the number of job openings within a particular state. The Occupation Card also contains information on knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for the field, common tasks and
activities, and tools and technology involved with the occupation, as well as the required education and training for the occupation. From the Occupation Card you can also access related occupations, web resources, and recommended occupation practice tests and skill improvement, as well as view available jobs within this occupation.

The Job and Internship Search section of JCA lets you access over 5 million current job and internship postings. Search for a job or internship by keyword, job title, skills, zip code, state, or company. Within the advanced search you can limit your job search to Fortune 500 companies, dog-friendly companies, working-mother friendly companies, part-time, temporary, or full-time work, and much more. The job listings come from SimplyHired, a company that aggregates job listings from major job boards, want ads and corporate and government websites.

The Resume Builder within JCA gives step-by-step instructions, tips and tools to create professional resumes. You can choose from different resume styles or even upload a resume that you have already created. What I really like about the resume section of JCA is that you can access over 200 “model” resumes, thousands of job-specific keywords, and hundreds of action words. Once you've created a resume in JCA, you can post it to LinkedIn or some other site or you can email it directly to a prospective employer. Similar to the Resume Builder, there is also a tool in JCA that lets you easily create letters. Whether it's a cover letter, interview follow-up, interview thank you letter, or just a networking letter, JCA offers samples and many tips to help you write a well-crafted letter.

Finally, JCA includes helpful information relating to interviewing and follow-up. Topics covered include how to ace an interview, tips on how to prepare professional references in advance, how to write an effective interview thank you, and when and if you do get a job offer, how to evaluate it. So now you can probably see how anyone looking for a job can benefit from Job & Career Accelerator. As I said at the beginning of this article, JCA really does integrate all parts of occupation/career/job searching into a project management tool for job seekers of all types.

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**ELM Office Hours**

*Jennifer Hootman*

http://referencenotes.minitex.umn.edu/category/october-2014/
Context-Building and Note-Taking: Two New Gale Database Features

Matt Lee

Gale recently announced several added features to its databases.

InterLink

Subject headings are a tried and true method for exploring library database content, searching strategically, and building contextual understanding. But the thought of using them may not occur naturally to inexperienced researchers or students. A new Gale feature called InterLink integrates subject searching into the reading/skimming process.
InterLink is available in Student Resources in Context and displays itself in the form of hyperlinked words or phrases within articles.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton's role in the suffrage movement was enormous. Together with her long-time friend and

Those hyperlinks provide connections to other articles on the same or related subjects.

If your library purchases Gale Virtual Reference Library materials outside of ELM, you should also see these InterLinks show up in InfoTrac/Powerearch databases.
More on *InterLink* from Gale.

**Highlights & Notes**

This new feature allows researchers to highlight passages within Gale database content and attach notes to database content. Marked up materials can then be viewed and managed at once. Highlights and notes are only saved during an individual session and do not require a user to create an account. By the time this article goes to publication, the functionality should be available in all the ELM databases from Gale.

More on *Highlights & Notes* from Gale.

**Back to October 2014**

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**AskMN Fall Webinars**

*Cara Pfahl*

There are five webinars for AskMN librarians scheduled for the fall. If your library participates in AskMN, check out the webinars on our Minitex Upcoming Training Sessions webpage. You can choose Filter by Category and select “AskMN” from the right panel to just see the AskMN webinars.

These webinars are designed to give librarians a chance to refresh their skills, review virtual reference best practices, learn about ways to customize your virtual reference service, and learn something new about gathering statistics and QuestionPoint reports. Sessions are intended for current AskMN librarians. Libraries interested in participating are encouraged to contact Cara Pfahl directly at pfahl001@umn.edu.

**Back to October 2014**
One-Second Poll: iPhone 6 or 6 Plus?

If money were no object, which would you choose?:

- iPhone 6
- iPhone 6 Plus
- Neither – I dislike Apple *or* don’t need a smartphone *or* already have one of each

Submit

Never submit passwords through Google Forms.

And here are the results of last month’s poll:
What's Better?: Valley Fair, the MN State Fair, or Vanity Fair

Images

State Fair Gopher, Minnesota State Fair

http://gallery.mnstatefair.org/media/misc/content/09_20080824_msf_13_large.html

“Vanity Fair Frontispiece...” by Nils Geylen. https://www.flickr.com/photos/napfisk/3056411947/in/photolist-5E5UMH-dqdoHC-d32bsY-8HR7Hg-6eAsK3-ddTd3F-djiYEM-5E5Hig-2KZyUp-dqd1mk-5GoeE1-0GqcxX2-dqd9rY-n5Sk6w-67ez7a-noVYVD-4DJ7zy-nRoDWr-4v6E7t-epR77-97vzW3-5qMBLi-8ZwFXs-4otyLX-dqdqCN-dqdtgY-dqdi1P-dqdtcN-dqd1on-dgi8un-5qMBUr-dqdfd-nSzXaR-5aL8Qc-dc71wY-dqdi4t-bj5TzX-dqdjYH-dqdqFf-5qMC8x-5GiVXz-97cif2-9f9tnK-dqdnzY-dqdqAE-dqdtds-5qMBYa-5qMBQP-9AVUgN-5itRoq (CC BY NC SA 2.0)

“Wild Thing, Valley Fair” by Rocky A. https://www.flickr.com/photos/asmythie/162635061/in/photolist-fnxJfM-fnAo5-fnxoB-fnzvC-fnxgK-fnyZm-fnAe4-fnyUT-fnzfP-fnz0E-fnA6z-fnzGy-fnxCf-fnyGT-fnysMT-fnzWq-fnzQ8-9KagN-5dHsk3-6jhMpc (CC BY NC SA 2.0)