A library treasure hunt: An alternative way to introduce new university students to the library

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The Library treasure hunt – introducing the first year student to the landscape of scientific information


CHALLENGES
• The library must compete with the first year students excitement for the subject, curiosity for new class mates and initial social activities.

BACKGROUND
• The conventional lecture or guided tour of the library was not succesful.

OBJECTIVE
• To make the first encounter with the library useful, fun and memorable.
• To provide all students with a minimum level of information literacy.

METHOD
• Learning by doing.
• Hands-on excercises.
• On the spot assessment.
• Reward system.

RESULTS
• All students receive a minimum level of information literacy.
• Threshold to contact the library later on in their studies is lowered.

SUCCESS FACTORS
• Close collaboration with course teacher and management.
• To make the library introduction an integrated and compulsory part of the course programme.

ADDED VALUE
• Students practice team work.
• Interlibrary staff cooperation.
• Subject library profiling.

DEVELOPMENTS
• New technology to enhance the use of the digital collection.

Students gather in the library and meet the library staff.

Students are given a quick presentation of the library and an introduction to the treasure hunt.

Students receive a stamp of approval from the librarian on the treasure map. After this students get their next assignment and continue on their quest.

A symbolic reward (treasure) is given to each student for mission accomplished. Librarian says good-bye and welcome the students back to the library.

Students are divided into smaller groups and given their first assignment.

Students discover the physical and digital library collections and services.

Students complete the assignments together in groups.

Students demonstrate the capacity for teamwork.

ILOs – Students communicate achieved results.

ATs – Students report on their findings directly to the librarian who gives instant feedback.