

2007 Tech Fellows Project Review: Embedded Library

Title:

The Embedded Library Project: Bringing Columbia College Library resources out of the library and into the (virtual) classroom.

Team:

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Faculty Participants (all are professors of Writing & Rhetoric II):

Brendan Riley, Christopher Ankney, Deborah Foot, Jonn Salovaara, Whitney Kurtz Ogilvie

Special thanks to Jennie Fauls and Jean Petrolle (English Department) for helping to coordinate these efforts and for providing a faculty stipend of \$250/adjunct participant.

Project Overview

The embedded library project is an attempt to connect students and faculty to library resources in new and more effective ways using existing social networking and course management system technologies as well as existing proprietary scholarly databases and other digital content.

The main purpose of the project was to shift the traditional paradigm that requires students and faculty to come to the library (either its physical space or web site) to begin their research and instead, bring selected library resources, tailored to a specific course curriculum, to researchers at their point of need (and when potential “learning moments” are most ripe).

With the help of the English Department, we identified five Writing & Rhetoric II faculty who were willing to participate in the pilot project. Four of the five faculty participants embedded tailored source code into their OASIS course sites and one of the faculty members allowed us access to their Moodle course site in which we were able to embed and tailor links directly.

Once the faculty participants had been identified, we met with each participant, gathered course syllabi and created web guides tailored for each of the three different WR II approaches: Inquiry (one class), Ethnography (three classes) and Visual Rhetoric (one class). These web guides included links to required readings (placed on Reserve at the Library), relevant databases for finding articles, general research tips and direct links to library assistance and other research help. These pages were then “embedded” into each class’ online course site (either in Oasis or Moodle) [See Appendix A].

These embedded links replaced the traditional face-to-face Library session for each of the five courses.

Throughout the course of the project, we attempted to:

- Promote information literacy by identifying and gathering topically relevant library resources and combining them with social networking and other emerging technologies to dynamically harness the wealth of this scholarly content by making it more accessible to students and faculty and ultimately more effective toward teaching and learning goals. These efforts included:
 - Setting up direct links to relevant and course-specific scholarly journals, authoritative web sites and library-created research guides
 - Setting up relevant RSS feeds directly from journals (new articles), the library catalog (new books), and from reputable web sites.
 - Setting up a direct link to librarian assistance within the course
- Enhance student learning outcomes and critical thinking skills over the length of the course and assess these learning outcomes through initial and post-course surveys designed to test knowledge and information literacy skills as well as an overall evaluation of the program.
- Promote faculty/librarian collaboration and raise awareness of the library and the resources it provides to the CCC community.
- Enhance and promote the use of the OASIS course management system or another online course management system (e.g. Moodle) through the use of this library partnership.
- Position the library as a technologically sophisticated partner in the intellectual life of the campus.

Project Links & Screen Shots

Here is the main page that links to each course:

<http://www.lib.colum.edu/research/english/index.php>

Here are links to each site:

Ethnography: (used by Christopher Ankney and Whitney Kurtz Ogilvie and Jonn Salovaara)

Find books: <http://www.lib.colum.edu/research/english/ethnographyBooks.php>

Find articles: <http://www.lib.colum.edu/research/english/ethnographyArticles.php>

Research tips: <http://www.lib.colum.edu/research/english/ethnographyHelp.php>

Visual Rhetoric: (used by Deborah Foote):

Find books: <http://www.lib.colum.edu/research/english/visualRhetoricBooks.php>

Find articles: <http://www.lib.colum.edu/research/english/visualRhetoricArticles.php>

Find images: <http://www.lib.colum.edu/research/english/visualRhetoricImages.php>

Research tips: <http://www.lib.colum.edu/research/english/visualRhetoricHelp.php>

Inquiry: (used by Brendan Riley)

Find books: <http://www.lib.colum.edu/research/english/inquiryBooks.php>

Find articles: <http://www.lib.colum.edu/research/english/inquiryArticles.php>

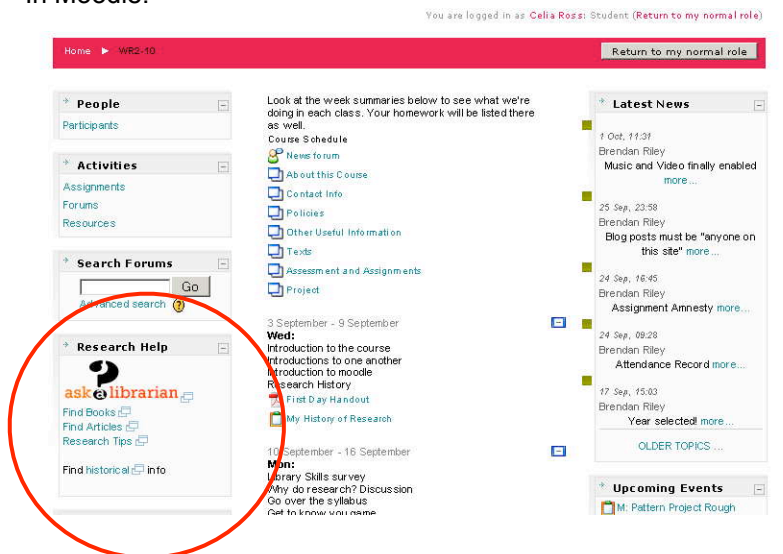
Research tips: <http://www.lib.colum.edu/research/english/inquiryHelp.php>

Here are screen shots of what the embedded code for the above links looks like:

In Oasis:



In Moodle:



Assessment (Scheduled for Spring 2008):

The success of the embedded library will be assessed by a combination of the following :

- Student and faculty surveys
 - Student surveys

- Each faculty member administered a Library Research Skills survey to their students at the beginning and then again at the end of the semester. These will be compared and analyzed and will address learning outcomes and perceptions of research skills
 - Faculty surveys
 - Faculty will be asked for their input on how the embedded library was promoted within their class as well as their satisfaction with the pilot, with student outcomes and their perceptions on whether this model can be reproduced for other courses and departments.
- Number of visits to site
 - Semester totals for each section and specific links within each site using Google analytics
 - Ease of use between CMS/LMS platforms Assessment will include an examination of OASIS vs. Moodle for this kind of project

Further Reflections Plans for the Future:

Here are some initial thoughts based on the past semester's pilot of the Embedded Library project (these will be added to after additional assessment as described above):

- The communication between the faculty participants (and the WRII coordinators) and the Library at the beginning of the semester was invaluable
 - Library learned a lot about goals of the WRII curriculum and had an opportunity to review syllabi and make sure materials for each course were purchased and put on reserve. This interaction should be replicated on an ongoing basis in order to promote the Library's services and resources.
- Writing & Rhetoric II may not be the ideal course to pilot this model
 - First year writing courses in general tend to vary greatly in terms of the research projects assigned and the range of the topics chosen by the students.
 - It is difficult to tailor a course page given the span of content, since different topics often require different research approaches.
 - WRII itself has multiple models (ethnography, inquiry, visual rhetoric, etc.) which also somewhat effects how research is approached.
 - Regardless, this pilot has helped us to target several upper-level courses where an embedded Library model might be used more successfully (e.g. Art History II and History of Cinema and other subject-specific courses where the research assignment is very structured).
- The Embedded Library model can likely be distributed to any and all interested faculty, whether they are using Oasis or Moodle. The Library already has a number of subject-specific pages that could be pointed to with easy-to-build embeddable code.
 - In showing faculty how to embed the Library code, other Library services could also be marketed, such as linking directly to database articles, course reserves, etc.
- While the Embedded Library pilot was intended, in part, to explore alternatives to the face-to-face/ in-class library instruction model, it will still be important to explore the development of additional Library research instruction and support tools, such as:
 - Developing a Research Skills component (or partial course) and integrating it into an existing First-Year or other required course
 - Developing a faculty training program so that faculty can integrate Library resources into their courses in whatever way is most effective and timely for them.
 - updated tutorials, subject guides, etc.

Appendix A: Embedded source codes & instructions

Instructions for embedding the code in Oasis

Once you're in your course Oasis page, click on the Edit Page option and then Content and then "Add Custom Content."

You can name this Research Help (or anything else that makes sense to you). Once you have this, you can click into Edit Content (the little pencil icons) and skip down to where the text box is. At the bottom of the text box, you'll see that the default view is set to normal. Change this to HTML and then copy and paste either of the following sets of code:

For Visual Rhetoric (Deborah):

```
<a href="http://vrlplus.cb.docutek.com/colum/vrl_entry.asp" target="_blank"></a><br><br><a href="http://www.lib.colum.edu/research/english/visualRhetoricBooks.php" target="_blank">Find Books</a><br><a href="http://www.lib.colum.edu/research/english/visualRhetoricArticles.php" target="_blank">Find Articles</a><br><a href="http://www.lib.colum.edu/research/english/visualRhetoricHelp.php" target="_blank">Research Tips</a>
```

For Ethnography (Christopher, Jonn & Whitney):

```
<a href="http://vrlplus.cb.docutek.com/colum/vrl_entry.asp" target="_blank"></a><br><br><a href="http://www.lib.colum.edu/research/english/ethnographyBooks.php" target="_blank">Find Books</a><br><a href="http://www.lib.colum.edu/research/english/ethnographyArticles.php" target="_blank">Find Articles</a><br><a href="http://www.lib.colum.edu/research/english/ethnographyHelp.php" target="_blank">Research Tips</a>
```

Embedding code in Moodle:

Because we had permissions set to access Brendan's WR11 Moodle course page, we were able to directly embed the code (Brendan's course was following the Inquiry model). Once we were in his course, we went into editing mode and added a Block of HTML. In the text mode of the HTML block, we pasted this code:

```
<a onclick="function onclick(event) { function onclick(event) { function onclick(event) { function onclick(event) { return top.js.OpenExtLink(window, event, this); } } } }" href="http://www.lib.colum.edu/images/askalibrarian.gif" target="_blank"></a> <br /><a target="_blank" title="Find Books" href="http://www.lib.colum.edu/research/english/inquiryBooks.php">Find Books</a><br /><a target="_blank" title="Find Articles" href="http://www.lib.colum.edu/research/english/inquiryArticles.php">Find Articles</a><br /><a target="_blank" title="Research Tips" href="http://www.lib.colum.edu/research/english/inquiryHelp.php">Research Tips</a><br /><br />Find <a href="http://www.lib.colum.edu/research/historyArticles.php" title="Historical info" target="_blank">historical</a> info<br /></br />
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