

**Annual Conference on the First Year Experience  
San Diego CA, February 2014**

**Facilitated Discussion:  
Preparing First Year Students for Research and Information Literacy  
Sunday 16 February, 1600-1700  
Hillcrest C/D**

Douglas Hasty  
First Year Experience Librarian  
Florida International University  
Miami, FL  
douglas.hasty@fiu.edu  
[libguides.fiu.edu/profile/douglashasty](http://libguides.fiu.edu/profile/douglashasty)

Heather Snapp  
First Year Experience Librarian  
Florida Gulf Coast University  
Fort Myers, FL  
hsnapp@fgcu.edu  
[library.fgcu.edu/FYE/fye.html](http://library.fgcu.edu/FYE/fye.html)

**Session Abstract**

First Year Students begin college life with poorly developed research and discovery skills. Soon they understand that their library is important for their education, only to realize they may not know how to go about the process of discovering and assessing information successfully. Preparing FYE's to become research and information literate must begin as early in the first year, or semester, as possible. Library expertise does not occur overnight. Providing FYE's with a solid foundation of the concepts, functions, basic research and discovery tools, and purpose of the academic library is an essential developmental skill in their academic life.

**Anticipated Learning Outcomes**

- Building a learned awareness of library programs for FYE students in other institutions, and developing a broader understanding of FYE library and research learning needs in other institutions, with the intention of returning to home institutions with ideas and new enthusiasm for developing and improving FYE library outreach services.
- Sharing concepts and ideas about providing library services for FYE students with educators, professionals, and librarians, for the purpose of summoning peer-to-peer education.
- Sharing stories about initiatives that succeeded and failed, with reasons from both perspectives, and what was learned and changed.
- Understanding that FYE services do not exist in a vacuum, in that, they are more successful through collaborative efforts than stand-alone.
- Understanding the importance of collaboration across campus departments is a crucial partnership for improving FYE students' understanding of the library and role in their education.

## DISCUSSION TOPICS

### Discussion Topics For Librarians

Numbers 6 – 10 repeat in both groups and apply to librarian and non-librarian perspectives.

1. How do you help students begin the process of learning to do research?
2. What methodologies do you use to deliver instruction to first-year students? (e.g. classroom visit, online tutorial, learning management system)
3. What assessment method is used to evaluate FYE instruction sessions? What do you do with the data?
4. How does your library currently engage in FYE initiatives at your institution?
5. Do you provide off-site library services to bring library skills to the students? (e.g. residence halls, student union)
6. What role does your institution play in the library and what role does the library play at your institution? What would be your priority project or idea?
7. If you could do your job any way you wish and had little or no budget concerns, what would you do to enhance collaboration with the library for FYE students?
8. Does your library participate in freshman orientation activities organized by the institution? How is the library involved?
9. What have you learned or discovered in relation to FYE's and the library that you would like to share with your colleagues during this discussion?
10. What would you like for the library and education profession to do in order to provide FYE's with a better understanding of library discovery, services, research management, and information literacy?

### Discussion Topics For Non-Librarians

Numbers 6 – 10 repeat in both groups and apply to librarian and non-librarian perspectives.

1. Regarding collaboration with the library, what FYE initiatives have you tried at your institution?
2. What would you like the library's role to be at your institution?
3. Would you like to be part of the library FYE services development process? If so, how could you contribute?
4. What do you do to introduce students to the library?
5. How does your library currently engage FYE initiatives at your institution?
6. What role does your institution play in the library and what role does the library play at your institution? What would be your priority project or idea?
7. If you could do your job any way you wish and had little or no budget concerns, what would you do to enhance collaboration with the library for FYE students?
8. Does your library participate in freshman orientation activities organized by the institution? How is the library involved?
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