

Transfer Students: Transforming Their Incoming Information Literacy and Library Skills

For academic libraries at four-year colleges and universities, it is difficult to know the level of information literacy skills incoming transfer students possess. The purpose of this discussion is to identify how academic libraries are ensuring that transfer students are equipped to be successful as they transition to their new institutions. This discussion will explore best practices in creating both curricular and co-curricular information literacy and library learning experiences for transfer students.

Introductions: Briefly share with us your name, position, institution, and a short summary of your transfer student demographic or profile.

Discussion Questions:

1. What challenges do transfer students face on your campus? What are some ways you have investigated the needs of your transfer students?
2. How do you identify transfer students and work with your campus to address their needs?
3. How does your library currently provide for transfer students? Are there specific services, resources, and/or staff dedicated to this population (e.g., embedded librarian or personal librarian programs, information literacy sessions as part of an academic course)?
4. Have you had any success using online resources (e.g., digital learning objects, interactive online games)? Have you embedded any of these resources in course management modules? Have any of these tools replaced in-person library orientations, workshops, or information literacy sessions?

5. How do you work with campus or community partners to engage with transfer students (e.g., office of admissions, academic support units, community college feeder schools, local high schools)?

6. Which campus partner would you like to collaborate with to reach transfer students?

7. Have you or other librarians created co-curricular programs, activities, or events for transfer students?

8. How have you utilized or considered utilizing learning analytics or other institutional data to reach transfer students?

9. What other considerations should we take when working with transfer students? Are there any unique challenges we have not discussed?

Additional reading:

Reference Services Review published two special issues on “Transfer Students and Students in Transition” in 2017. Volume 45, Issues 2 & 3.