T8: Grassroots Collaborations and Beyond: Bridging the Gap Between High School and Post-Secondary

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LibGuide: Research Skills: Bridging the Gap  http://libguides.okanagan.bc.ca/js-bridging
BLOG: Grassroots Collaborations Blog  http://grassrootscollaborationbridgingthegap.blogspot.com/

In a recent Okanagan College survey close to 75% of faculty responded NO to the question “Do you think first-year students transitioning from high school have the research skills needed to succeed in first-year university?” The survey as well identified and ranked the following research skills Okanagan College faculty expect first year students to have when starting post-secondary education:

1. How to locate and access information
2. How to avoid plagiarism and recognize the importance of citing and referencing sources
3. How to recognize when information is needed
4. How to evaluate the credibility and authority of information
5. How to organize and apply information effectively
6. How to differentiate between popular and scholarly sources
7. How to differentiate between a primary and secondary source
8. How to create a research strategy or keep a research journal
9. How to synthesize and build on existing information
10. Other: expect them to develop these skills

Our goals are to help bridge the gap between high school and post-secondary education by:
• identifying perceived gaps in the research skills of students entering first year university
• involving students in the information literacy process in preparation for post-secondary
• creating institutional awareness and commitment to transitions opportunities
• creating sustainable collaborations between our schools and post-secondary institutions
• creating a lobby group in support of funding for teacher-librarians locally and beyond
• identifying and working with other groups at our institutions who are focusing on transition

Creating a bridging plan of action
• Should you be doing it?  (Burhanna, 2007)  • Program outcomes
• Title of project  • List of potential key players (Burkhardt, 2005)
• Action plan leader  • Learning outcomes
• Identify action points  • Development of program
• Objectives  • Assessment of program
• Vision statement

Key Collaborations (For more collaborations see Research Skills LibGuide  http://libguides.okanagan.bc.ca/js-bridging)
• ACRL/AASL  Blueprint for Collaboration
• BCTLA Points of Inquiry
• Carleton University and Ottawa School District
• Kent State University  Transitioning To College  &  Informed Transitions

Suggested readings please see Research Skills LibGuide: WILU tab  http://libguides.okanagan.bc.ca/js-bridging
Burhanna, K.J. (2010, June 26). Yours, mine, and ours: Moving students through the information literacy ladders from high school through community college to the college/university level. Presented at CJCLS for ALA.
http://tmcanada.pbworks.com/TM-Canada-Papers