

Proposal for Library Workshops focused on Graduate Students

The Library serves a vital role in providing research assistance and guidance to our graduate students and faculty. However these services are under-utilized by our students. Our recent user assessment survey appears to indicate that we are not doing an effective job in providing or promoting these services.

It is to our benefit to restructure our graduate services by creating structured forums in which we can present and disseminate vital information and advice. These forums should be designed in a manner where they can be made available to the students at the point of need and should be actively promoted across campus.

A repeating workshop series should be planned to focus on the following topics:

1. The Graduate Student Library Survival Guide – Graduate students use library resources at a much higher level than undergraduates. As a result they have more specific and focused needs. This workshop should focus upon familiarizing the graduate students with library services such as research assistance, available research resources, research tips and tricks and interlibrary loan.
2. Copyright for the Graduate Student – The ethical and legal use of materials in research projects, thesis, dissertations, and other publications are vital for an effective researcher. This workshop will provide an introduction to copyright, and will focus on author rights. The appropriate steps for acquiring and demonstrating permission to use materials will be reviewed. Additionally, appropriate teaching and presentation practices as they relate to face-to-face and online teaching will be covered.

This workshop should be offered at least once a semester to the general graduate student population. The workshop will be customizable to specific disciplinary needs enabling the library and offer it to graduate students within focused disciplines.

Important services are also offered by the Office of Graduate Studies, Technology Transfer and Economic Development, and other units across campus. Each of these campus units are delivering valuable information and services to graduate students. We should considering partnering with these units to offer additional workshops on such topics as:

1. Guidelines for formatting and submitting a dissertation or thesis
2. Understanding the policies and procedures of dealing with human subject research
3. Understanding patents and other intellectual property

These workshops will create a cohesive and unified single source for assisting our graduate students in becoming effective and respected researchers and better prepare them for their professional careers.

Effectively promoting these workshops is key to their success and will also require cooperation across campus units. Additionally, we must offer the workshops at times and locations most convenient to the students including after hours, weekends and at other campus location.