Learning Commons

Bridging the physical with the virtual

Joyce Wong
Langara College Vancouver, B.C.

About Langara
- Urban commuter college
- 2 yrs with a few 4 yr degrees
- 9000 students, most under 25

Learning Commons
- 2 yrs of physical renovation
- Services common to LCs

Focus
- Online self-help
- Targeted at our student needs
- Manageable by 75 FTE staff
- Grow organically, as opportunities arise

Input
- Student Survey (4208)
- Student feedback
- Interviews with partners such as counsellors & tutor coordinators
- Tutor Survey

Top Rated
- Writing
- Subject Specific
- Research
- Computer

Preferred Formats
- Quick/Handouts
- Videos
- Practice Exercises
- Online one-on-one
- Least interest: self-paced tutorials

Counsellors Interviews
- Catching students who need it
- Clear quick how to info
- Encourage to attend workshops
- Tools to work with students

Meaningful Connection
- Reviewed other LC
- Websites
- One way blasts
- Feedback from students & partners

Next Steps
- Top rated topics: develop online tools with Counselling, Library and Writing Centre
- Practice exercises: work with subject depts to align with curriculum
- Online Writing Tutors: explore flexibility
- Always link to in-person help for more customized attention

PROMOTION

Specific Example
Learning Commons

Bridging the physical with the virtual

Joyce Wong
Langara College Vancouver, B.C.
About Langara

- Urban commuter college
- 2 yrs with a few 4 yr degrees
- 9000 students, most under 26
Learning Commons

- 2 yrs of physical renovation
- Services common to LCs
Meaningful Connection

- Reviewed other LC Websites
- One way blasts
- Feedback from students & partners
Caveats

- Limited Resources
- Idea of online community further down the road
Focus

- Online self-help
- Targeted at our student needs
- Manageable by .75 FTE staff
- Grow organically, as opportunities arise
Input

- Student Survey (428)
- Student coffee/chat
- Interviews with partners such as counsellors & tutor coordinators
- Tutor Survey
Top Rated

- Writing ✔
- Subject Specific ✔
- Research ✔
- Computer ✗
Preferred Formats

- Quick How to Handouts
- Videos
- Practice Exercises
- Online one-on-one
- Least interest: self-paced tutorials
Counsellors Interviews

- Catching students who need it
- Cite quick how to info
- Encourage to attend workshops
- Tools to work with students
Next Steps

Top rated topics: develop online how-to's with Counselling, Library and Writing Centre

Practice exercises: work with subject depts to align with curriculum

Online Writing Tutor: explore feasibility

Always link to in-person help for more customized attention

PROMOTION
Specific Example

Psyc 1st/2nd

To succeed:
- Use textbook effectively
- Familiar with terminology and concepts
- Interpret research

From the Dept: Practice exercises from textbook publishers

From the Library:
- Encyclopedia of Psychology for definitions
- PsycInfo: finding and interpreting sample articles

From Counsellors:
- Quick handout on memorization techniques

Motivate to one-on-one option

Referrals:
- Psyc Tutor for one-on-one help
- Reference Desk
- Writing Centre in-person or online service
- Student success workshops on textbook reading / memorization by Counsellors
Psyc 1st/2nd

To succeed:
- Use textbook effectively
- Familiar with terminology and concepts
- Interpret research
From the Dept: Practice exercises from textbook publishers

From the Library:
Encyclopedia of Psychology for definitions
PsycInfo: finding and interpreting sample articles

From Counsellors:
Quick handout on memorization techniques
Motivate to one-on-one option
Referrals:

Psyc Tutor for one-on-one help

Reference Desk

Writing Centre in-person or online service

Student success workshops on textbook reading / memorization by Counsellors