Creating a “new normal”: Transforming instruction for MLIS students

LINDSAY McNIFF • LEARNING & INSTRUCTION LIBRARIAN
DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY • 2015

We'll talk about

The context

The Academic Support Series

Instructional approaches

Survey feedback

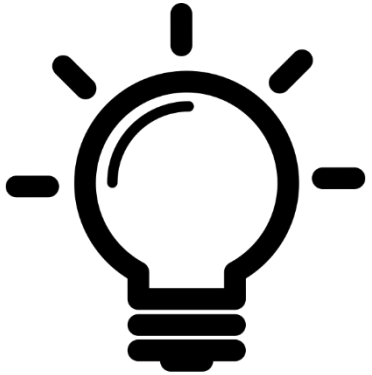
Future planning

Dal School of Information Management (SIM)

2-year MLIS program; incoming cohort of 32 in 2015

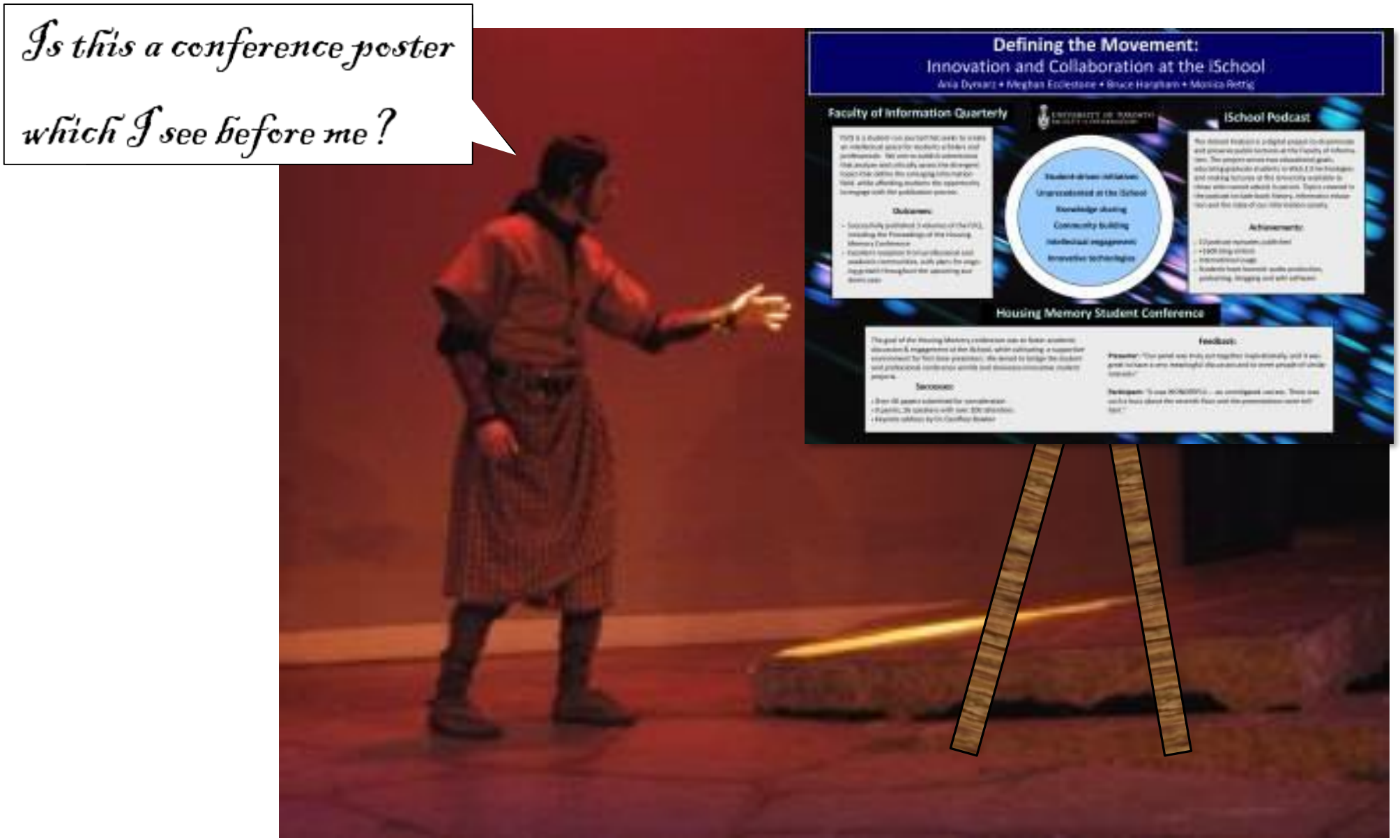
Connection with the Dalhousie Libraries is strengthening

I became permanent liaison librarian in July 2014



The SIM Academic Support Series

Image created by Lorenzo Alfano from the Noun Project



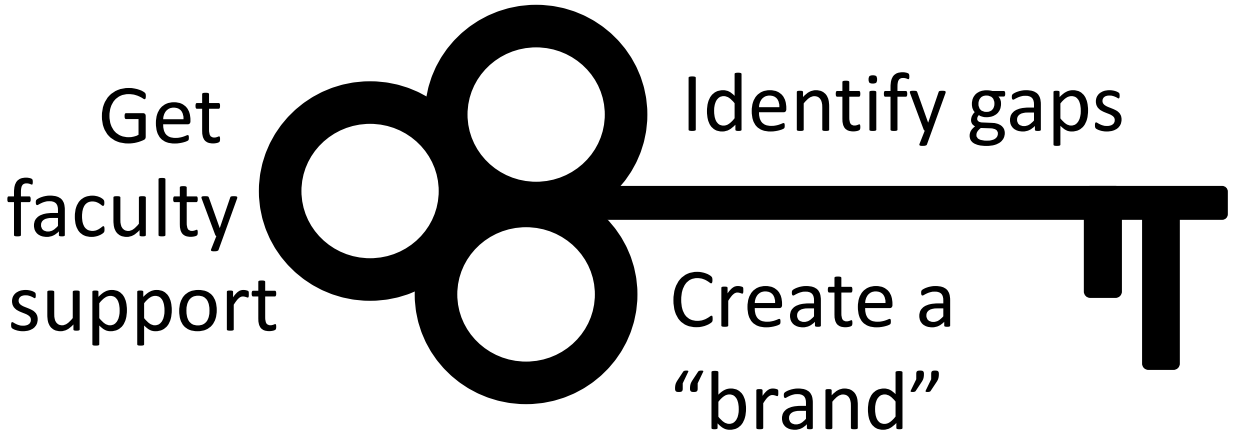
Images: http://meghan1311.wordpress.com/files/2009/05/try-poster.jpg?w=300
http://www.uu.edu/photos/1980-45.jpg

2 definite identified gaps

Conference posters

External funding

Academic Support Series



Possible workshops

- Conference posters ★
- External funding ★
- Academic writing
- Contract work in academic libraries
- Health sciences librarianship

combined

- Databases in depth → folded into course
- Open Access
- RefWorks
- PubMed
- Information literacy assessment
- Online privacy
- Bibliometrics
- Finding resources (intro to searching)

Final list

- External funding
- Finding resources → mandatory
- Academic writing
- Conference posters
- Topics in academic libraries
- Bibliometrics → mandatory

Logistics

90 minutes each, 1 – 2:30pm

Computer lab, 24 capacity

Twice in September; once per month in October, November, January, February

The little things

Faculty buy-in: marks for attendance

“Subject Librarian” page on SIM website

All workshops were held in the same room

Attended orientation to speak about the workshops; provided paper handout and link to online version on subject LibGuide

Mandated registration

Promoted the workshops through social media channels

Rowe 4001

Academic Support Series

2014/2015

Provided by
Lindsay McNiff
Learning & Instruction Librarian
SIM liaison librarian

with thanks to JoAnn Watson

Note: most sessions are scheduled for 90 minutes but may only run for one hour with time at the end for discussion, research help, and questions.

To register:
carol.richardson@dal.ca

External funding

Tuesday, September 9, 1:15 – 1:45pm OR
Friday, September 12, 1:15 – 1:45pm

Looking for some extra cash to help you through the next two years? You will leave this quick information session with a list of external awards and bursaries that you might want to apply for, as well as tips to consider when deciding whether or not to apply. We will also discuss SSHRC applications and how to write a good one.

These sessions will immediately follow Lindsay's APA Citation sessions – no need to re-register.

Finding resources with the Dal Libraries' catalogue & databases

Tuesday, September 23, 1:00 – 2:30pm OR
Tuesday, September 23, 2:30 – 3:00pm

This session will continue from the introductory demonstration provided during Orientation, offering a more hands-on introduction to some of the resources you will be using as an MLIS student. You will learn how to:

- conduct author, title, and keyword searches in the catalogue and research databases
- access print books and ebooks
- access Dal's extensive e-journal collection
- work from citations to find specific full-text articles from databases of electronic journals
- download, print, or email articles

You will also have time to ask questions about any difficulties you have had so far with the libraries' resources.

Space is limited. Please email carol.richardson@dal.ca to register.

Graduate academic writing

Tuesday, October 21, 1:00 – 2:30pm

This workshop will look broadly at the craft of academic writing and at some of its more technical aspects. Topics to be covered include the following:

Expectations of writing at the graduate level; process-oriented writing; the idea of genre; forming a thesis; organizing a paper; using the work of others in your writing; improving the clarity of your writing at the sentence level; paragraph construction; writing critically; common technical errors; and verb tenses in academic writing.

Please note that this is a tentative list of topics. There may be changes, depending on the interests of the class.

Space is limited. Please email carol.richardson@dal.ca to register.

Is this a conference poster which I see before me?

Tuesday, November 18, 1:00 – 2:30pm

There are posters, and then there are *conference posters*. Create effective posters for your projects, research and conference presentations. Participants will create a 4' x 6' poster (in theory). The workshop will include: setting backgrounds, inserting text (font styles and sizes), and working with images, graphs, and tables. Participants need not have any previous experience with *PowerPoint*.

Please note: we will discuss how to have the poster printed but we will not do printing in the workshop.

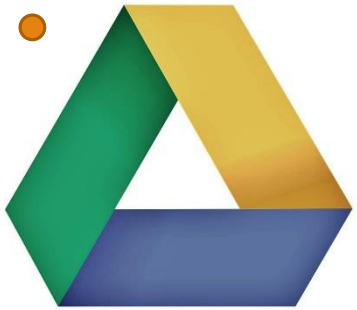
Space is limited. Please email carol.richardson@dal.ca to register.

Instruction techniques

Instruction techniques

Catalogue searching race using Google Docs

Find.
A better.
Way.



Google Drive

Team Novanet, Round 1, 2:30-4

1) Find a **print** book about D.H. Lawrence.

Title	Author	Call number	Holding library

2) Find an **ebook** about diary writing - must be available at Dalhousie!

Title	Author

3) Find a **print** book about some aspect of Victorian society.

Title	Author	Call number	Holding library

4) Find an **ebook** about film noir - must be available at Dalhousie!

Title	Author

Instruction techniques

Catalogue searching race using Google Docs

Finding a thesis exercise

Getting a thesis

What is this video actually about?

Based on what evidence?

If your claim is true, why does it matter?

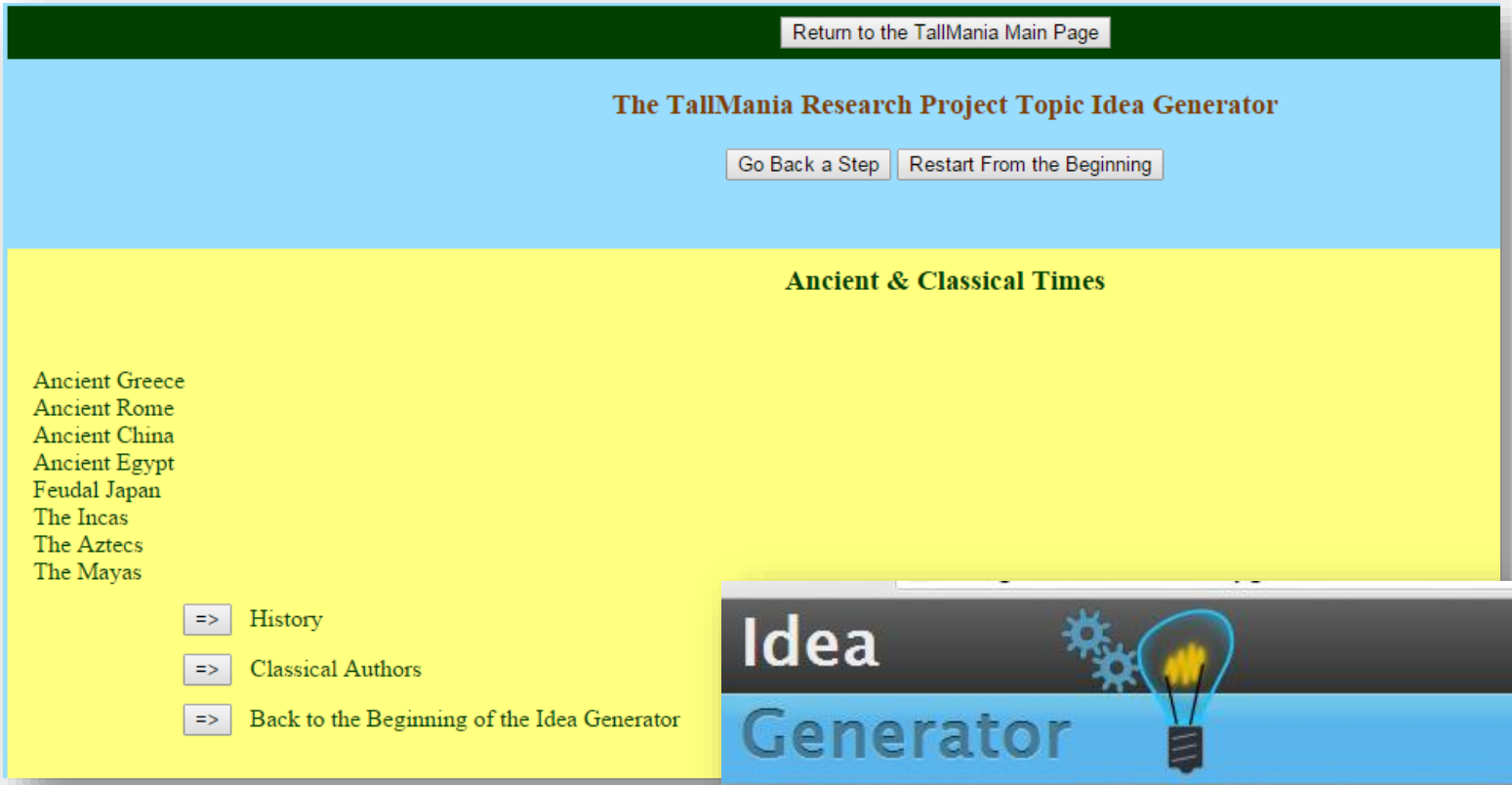
Thanks, as always, to Jenny Sampirisi for this one

Instruction techniques

Catalogue searching race using Google Docs

Finding a thesis exercise

Topic generator



Random topics!

http://www.tallmania.com/topicgenerator/topicgenerator.htm

http://ideagenerator.creativitygames.net/

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

From wine cork to garden gnome: An exploratory study

Lindsay McNiff, Dalhousie University

Background

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Methods

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Results

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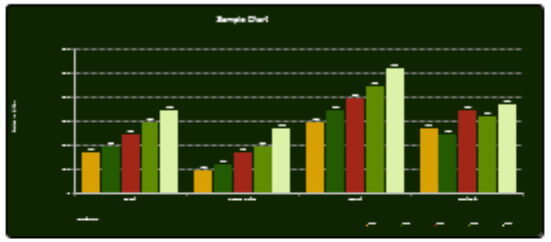

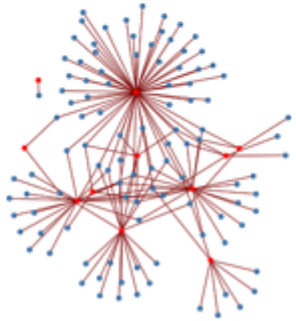

The data speaks...

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Discussion

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Instruction techniques

Catalogue searching race using Google Docs

Finding a thesis exercise

Topic generator

Guided database investigation

DATABASES SESSION: PAGE 2

SLIGHTLY LONGER EXERCISE 2

- Access the database assigned to you
- Using an example search of your choice, determine how to do the following (keeping notes is entirely optional):

1) Limit the date range to the last 5 years

2) Limit to peer-reviewed

3) Find the thesaurus (if there is one) and use search terms from the thesaurus to search the

4) Combine searches

5) Sort from newest to oldest

6) Create an account

Now, turn to one of the people next to you and kindly educate them on how to perform each of these functions in the database you were using. After you have finished expounding on the subject,

Instruction techniques

Catalogue searching race using Google Docs

Finding a thesis exercise

Topic generator

Guided database investigation

Lots of hands-on exercises

Humor

Monster designed by Kyle Bridgett

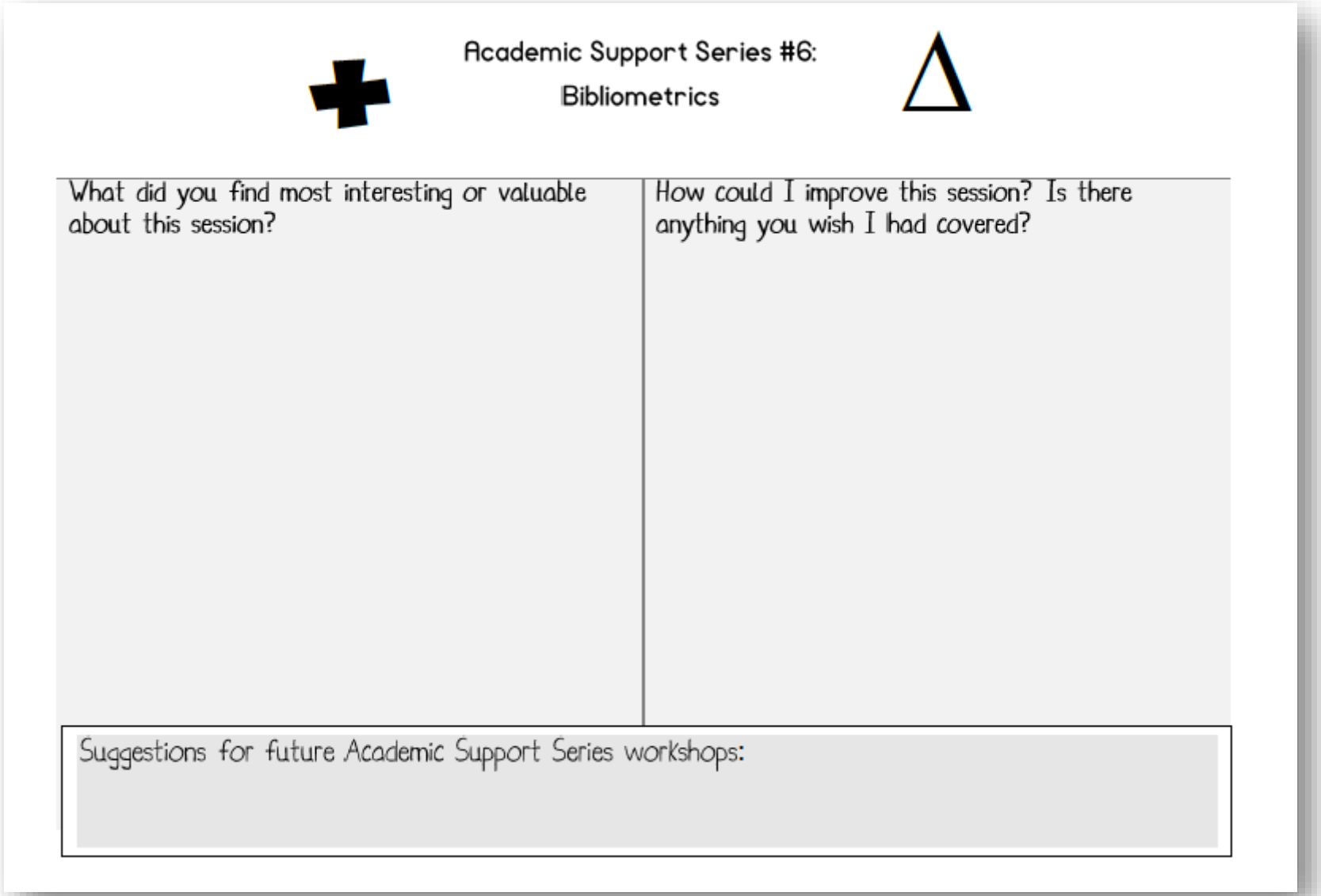
What happened?

Attendance was not a problem

Students promoted the workshops amongst themselves

I built a closer relationship with SIM

Session assessment



Academic Support Series #6:

Bibliometrics

What did you find most interesting or valuable about this session?	How could I improve this session? Is there anything you wish I had covered?

Suggestions for future Academic Support Series workshops:

Program assessment – Opinio survey

Sessions attended (if not, why not?)

Was the session worth your time? Would you recommend it to incoming students?

Was there a particular workshop (or workshops) that you found to be the most worthwhile?

What was your most valuable or interesting takeaway from the Academic Support Series?

Do you feel that the Academic Support Series workshops supported your studies at SIM, your career development, your research skills, or other areas? Please comment.

Now that you have some experience as a SIM student, can you think of any additional workshops that should be added to the series?

Additional comments/suggestions

Students appreciated

Picking up transferrable skills

Learning more about their field

Learning about concepts that may have been missed in their classes

Feeling up to speed with their classmates

Feeling that the department cared about them

Hands-on learning

Students wanted to learn about

Public library careers

Advanced searching/controlled vocabularies

Grey literature

RefWorks

Giving presentations

Business databases

The ethics review process

LibGuides

Other comments

It was actually great to see Lindsay's work as an example of what a teaching librarian can do - in addition to learning the material in the workshops, there was also a meta-learning experience in watching Lindsay work.

I found the workshops helpful and informal - a nice way to learn new things one should know.

I like these little extra things because it makes me feel like SIM cares about getting us prepared for the future.

The ones I attended were not only useful, but more or less essential.

2015/2016 Series

Finding resources

RefWorks

Academic writing

Conference posters

Advanced searching/controlled vocabularies

Grey literature

Academic and public library work

Conclusions

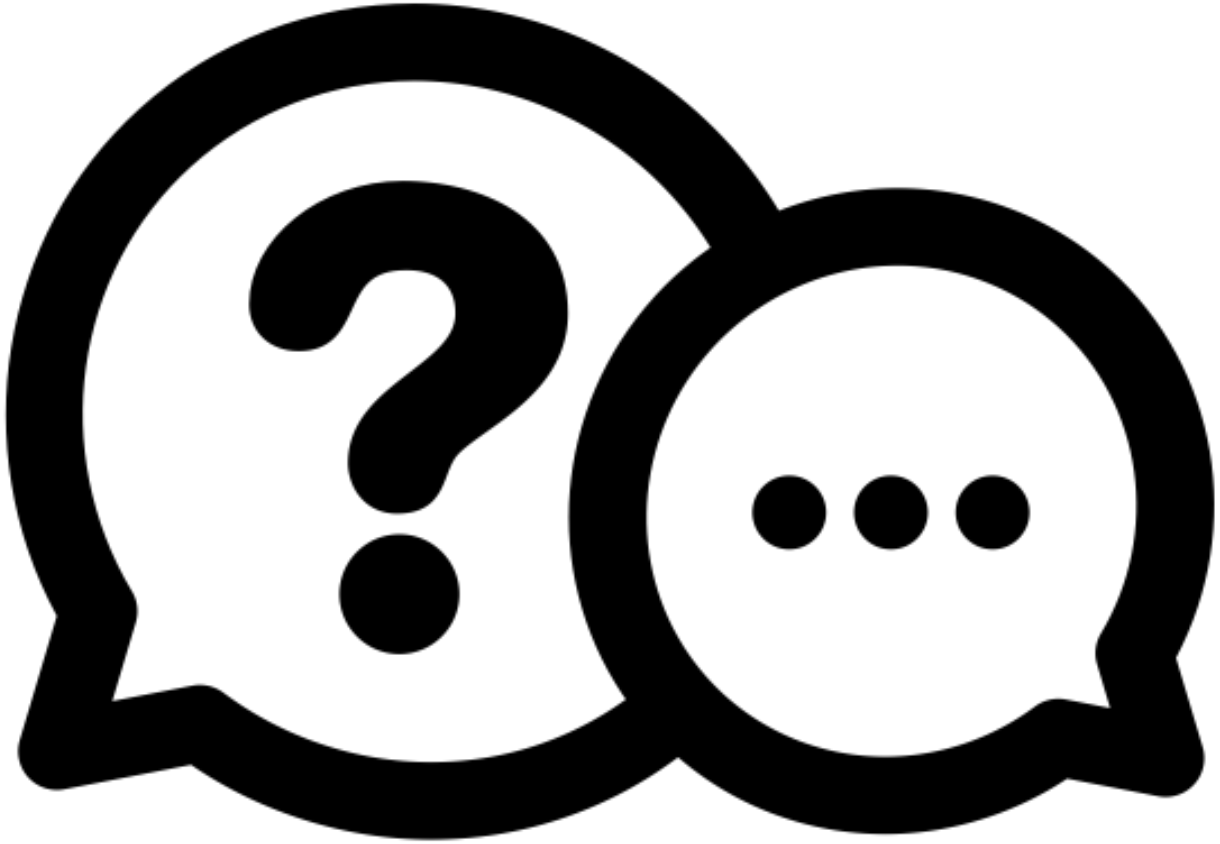
Find the gaps

Get faculty support

Create consistency

Be creative and active with instruction

Ask for student feedback



Thank you. Questions?

lindsay.mcniff@dal.ca

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from the Noun Project