Cultivating Success for English as an Additional Language Students: A Library Flexible Learning Partnership

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Issue addressed

• New students, particularly those who speak English as an additional language and who may not have had much prior experience using a library, often lack the necessary skills to access and use resources effectively. We need resources that are designed taking into account the needs of international, multilingual students.

Project Objectives

• Complete a mapping exercise to identify Vantage College students’ library and information literacy needs to connect those needs to existing library resources.
• Identify new library and information literacy resources required to meet the needs of EAL students.
• Adapt existing library tools and resources to facilitate use by EAL students.
• Create new library and information literacy resources, as needed.
• Integrate tools and resources into online and face-to-face Vantage College and UBC Library instruction.
• Evaluate the effectiveness of the tools and resources.

People Involved

Vantage College faculty
Library staff
SLAIS graduate students

Timeline

May-Aug 2016: 
- Resource mapping
- Pre-assessment

Sep-Oct 2016
- Tutorial creation (Writing and editing scripts, creating videos, vocabularies, and handouts)
- Module development
- Piloting in the classroom

Nov 2016
- Feedback
- Student surveys
- Focus groups (student & faculty)
- Interviews

Dec 2016
- Minor revisions
- Library: Best Practices Guidelines for Creating EAL Tutorials
- Final Report

Profile of an academic library
Library research
Evaluating information sources
Academic integrity
AskAway & WriteAway

Student Feedback

• 8 focus group sessions
• 6-10 students per session
• Minor edits were required based on student feedback

Overall, students found the videos to be helpful when considering future research and study.

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