The librarians of the Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library witnessed a number of trends in the past 8 years:

- University created a seven-credit, mandatory writing program for all students.
- Students and eventually devised a number of programs and services to support the research and educational needs of these students including:
  - Education of distance education faculty on copyright, off-campus access options, and online resources at the annual health sciences faculty retreat, through the library liaison program, and via highlighting the logistics of obtaining passwords, off-campus access, and on-campus contact.
  - Inclusion of multi-disciplinary databases such as ARI/Inform Complete on the Library’s home page to meet general education needs.
  - The extension of strictly health sciences resources to the main academic gateway to improve undergraduate exposure to these tools.
  - Responsibility for a 1-credit, online course. Foundations of Management Information Systems, which taught basic computer and information literacy skills (HSIC106).

University Writing Program

To promote scholarship, critical thinking, and academic excellence among undergraduates, the University created a seven-credit, mandatory writing program for all students:

- Every freshman takes a 4-credit writing seminar focused on a theme, such as “Shakespeare and Love” or “Conspiracy: Theory”, which includes three increasingly-complex writing assignments.
- During Sophomore and Junior years, students are required to take two 3-credit writing-intensive courses within their respective disciplines.
- Departments providing extensive support to the program include the Writing Center and the Gelman Library, the University’s main undergraduate library.

The overall search process was an eye opening one. After having written

easiest place to search, but it is not always the most accurate and for reliable

“The overall search process was somewhat frustrating. As our reading in the provided

easiest place to search, but it is not always the most accurate and for reliable

The success of this module resulted in the following:

- Participation in live webinars for faculty on incorporating online resources into the curriculum.
- Exploration of additional tutorial topics for students and faculty.
- Creation of a formal online tutorial using this content in Camtasia.

The Issue of Distance Education Students in the Health Sciences

Health Sciences distance education students posed a special problem as the University implemented its Writing Program:

- Each student enters the SMHS distance education program with at least 60 credits completed, including 6 credits in English composition.
- Should the University’s writing requirements apply to them or should the program be adapted in some way to reflect their advanced status?

The solution: Beginning fall 2007, students working toward a BS in Clinical Management and Leadership and Clinical Research Administration must also complete HSci112 Writing in the Health Sciences. In late August, the Library was asked to incorporate a literature research and information science tool with assignments into the curriculum with a one-month deadline.

Incorporating Library Instruction and Resources into the University’s Writing Program for Undergraduates

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Future Plans

The success of this module resulted in the following:

- Creation of a formal online tutorial using this content in Camtasia.
- Planning meetings with the Instructional Technology Staff in the Health Sciences Programs to increase the presence of both the librarians themselves and the Library’s resources within the curriculum.
- Exploration of additional tutorial topics for students and faculty.
- Participation in live webinars for faculty on incorporating online resources into the curriculum.

The End Result

A module that emphasized the research process and highlighted health sciences and multidisciplinary online resources was adapted from existing instructional material and an original introduction and assignment created as follows:

- Searching for High Quality Information, which covered such topics as selecting the best information resource, searching beyond the web, the professional health sciences literature, MEDLINE, and evaluating information.
- Searching the Health Sciences Literature which covered selecting a research topic, steps in the research process, selecting the appropriate resource for your information need, and citing sources.
- The Focused Assignment required students to research obesity in adolescents in order to practice:
  - Locating background information on a topic
  - Identifying high quality and factual materials on the Web such as statistics, program information, and position papers
  - Locating professional level materials through a database search
  - Locating news and policy-driven sources in an interdisciplinary database
  - Critiquing their own and colleagues search strategies and results
- Students could link directly to online books and journals and to additional tutorials from the appropriate sections of the tutorials. Full contact information for Library support was provided. All assignments were uploaded to Blackboard for peer review.