Ramp Up for Research Days: On-Campus + Online = Success

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Introduction
During fall 2015, Himmelfarb Library and The George Washington University Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) collaborated to increase health sciences student participation in GW’s annual Research Days event.

The library launched two new initiatives designed to target both on-campus students and Distance Education (DE) students: six “Ramp Up to Research Days” workshops with both in-class and WebEx components, and a customized Research Days portal within the Health Sciences Research Commons (HSRC) digital repository.

Methods & Materials

Collaboration
• GW Office of Vice President of Research (OVPR)
• GW Schools of Medicine, Nursing and Public Health
• Bepress/Digital Commons on repository redesign

Initiative 1: HSRC Customized
• Library staff handled submission and archiving of posters, rather than funneling poster presenters through the self-submission process in HSRC
• Reduced the number of fillable metadata fields
• Established a default Creative Commons license for posters (CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0)

Initiative 2: Research Day Workshops
Poster Presentation Skills for GW Research Days
• The ABC’s of Abstract Writing, Dr. Linda Welting (January 21, 2016)
• Show Off Your Data! How to Create Graphs, Pie Charts and Tables, Tom Hartfiel (February 24, 2016)
• Tips for Creating an Effective Poster Design, Barbara McKeown and Catherine Duder (March 8, 2016, PPT only)
• Preparing Effective Posters, Dr. Anamaria Colberg-Poley (March 9, 2016)
• How to Present your Poster and Win the Judgest, Dr. Rosalyn Jajuga and Gisela Butera (March 22, 2016)
• Research Day and Beyond... II, Meaghan Corbett and Gisela Butera (March 23, 2016)

Outreach: Distance Education Students
• Workshops broadcast online via WebEx
• Created pilot process for video submission
• Embedded streaming video capability in HSRC to showcase DE student work

Results: Health & Medicine
GW Research Day Participants 2014 - 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Participation</th>
<th>Abstract/Poster (Yes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Past HSRC Research Days Portal
2016 HSRC Redesigned Portal
2016 DE Video Pilot

GW Research Day 2016: Survey Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Which Research Day Workshop did you attend and/or watch?</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attended Workshop</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watched Video and/or PPT</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not attend or not watch Video and/or PPT</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Why you have not submitted your poster to HSRC?</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waiting for my advisor's approval</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waiting until my study was published</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submission process was confusing</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure of the benefits of HSRC</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusions
- 81% of 2016 students agreed to have their poster and abstract uploaded to HSRC, compared to 6% of submitters in 2015.
- Pilot DE portal resulted in 3 DE students submitting a video presentation.
- Workshops were perceived to be helpful but technical problems with WebEx led to low participation from DE students.

Future Directions
Collaboration: OVPR & Stakeholders
- Begin Research Days planning process earlier in the year.
- Create guidelines for DE students who wish to submit video presentations (length, format, content, etc.)
- Improve marketing of workshops and instructions on how to participate via WebEx.
- Establish a presence on OVPR’s Research Days FAQ webpage where students go first for information.

Himmelfarb:
- Educate presenters on the use of copyrighted material, such as images and music, in their posters and videos.
- Advertise the benefits of archiving posters in HSRC (applying for residency, CV, resume ...)
- Include a field for students to upload a photo of themselves and their poster.

Take-Aways:
- Forming partnerships is key to success
- Need to start planning process earlier in the year
- Make students aware of the benefits of archiving their poster and abstract in HSRC

Acknowledgements
We would like to acknowledge the following groups: Digital Commons, GW Research Days Committee Members and GW Research Days student participants.

References: GW Research Days logo: Used with permission

Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, DC

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