Connecting Faculty to Online Instructional Software: The Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library Experience

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Overview:
• Use of online instruction software by Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library
• Drop-in library classes offered online & online library orientation for distance education classes
• Sessions to train faculty to use online instructional software

Getting Started:
• We began by offering a few online courses along side our traditional in-person ‘drop-in’ courses.
• As the popularity grew we increased our online offerings – during the Fall 2012 semester we offered classes on RefWorks as well as 3 different levels of Microsoft Excel online.
• We have also been embedded in a number of distance education classes in the School of Nursing. – as part of our expanding role in these classes is to offer multiple synchronous instructional sessions, including a general library orientation as well as a session on the use of the Refworks bibliographic management program.

Future Goals:
• Increase the frequency and variety of our online offerings
• Continue to offer instruction to faculty in the use of Blackboard Collaborate
• Provide technical support for faculty using this software.

Building On Our Success:
• As a result of our experiences using this software to teach library orientation and other online classes, we decided to offer classes to our faculty to help them get started on the use of this software in their own instruction.
• These sessions are highly interactive and hands-on. We give faculty the chance to see what this software is like from both the instructor and student perspective.
• Additionally, we have given one-on-one guidance and support to faculty members getting started with Blackboard Collaborate.

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