

END OF FUNDING PERIOD REPORT

LAUC Statewide Grants, Research & Professional Development Committee

Primary Applicant(s): Danielle Salomon

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TITLE OF PROJECT:

Embedded Peer Inquiry Specialists: A Gateway to Information Literacy

Time Period of Grant: Spring 2016

Amount of Award Received: \$600 (Presentation Grant)

Original Abstract as Submitted:

Introduction: Peer-assisted learning has been embraced by higher education as a way to increase students' success during their first year of college. At the same time, academic librarians have lauded embedded librarianship as an effective way to improve students' information literacy skills, but it is expensive and difficult to scale. The UCLA Library is testing a model that combines the benefits of embedded librarianship with peer learning, while solving some of the challenges associated with those models. The combined model appears to be an effective, affordable, and scalable gateway to information literacy. We propose to present our early results at the Creating Knowledge VIII conference.

Methods: The program embeds a student who has completed General Education (GE) lecture course back into the current year's course to help students with research and writing assignments. The embedded student, called an "Inquiry Specialist," is nominated by that course's faculty. The program launched in 2015 in five courses that serve a total of 830 students. It is jointly funded by The Division of Undergraduate Education and the UCLA Library.

Assessment is ongoing and includes: 1. IRB-approved study that will compare data (grades, retention, first-generation status, etc.) from students who connected with an Inquiry Specialist with those who did not; 2. Information literacy skills pre- and post-assessments; 3. Analysis of course evaluations; 4. Surveys of students and instructors.

Preliminary Results: During the first six weeks of Fall, 830 students (15% of the freshman class) attended a 40-minute library orientation, a record level of interaction for our library. Approximately 23% of the 830 students sought individual help from the Embedded Inquiry Specialists. In one cluster, the addition of an Inquiry Specialist increased student consultations by over 66%. We will have more results to share in June as additional assessments are completed.

I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS and EVALUATION

* What aspects were completed as proposed? If your study could not be completed as proposed, explain how your plans were altered.

The presentation grant gave us partial support to travel to Reykjavik, Iceland to give a talk on our project at the Creating Knowledge VIII conference.

* Did the project accomplish what it intended? Did it make a difference?

The project was intended to share the details of our program and preliminary assessment results with an international audience. We accomplished that, and colleagues at the conference expressed interest in the project, demonstrating that it made a difference. For more information, see Section 4 below.

* What would you do differently next time, if anything?

Apply for grants earlier in the year.

* What advice do you have for others applying for LAUC research grants?

This was a presentation grant, so I don't have advice for those applying for research grants, but it's something I will consider for next year! I also did not know that I could apply for a presentation grant before being accepted to present and that was good to know.

II. IS YOUR PROJECT COMPLETED? Yes__ No x

If No, what is needed to complete the project? Is more time needed? Or more funds?

The Embedded Inquiry Specialist program is an ongoing experimental project of the UCLA Library. More time is needed to assess the program's expansion to 10 GE Clusters for the 2016-17 academic year.

III. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Please explain how the funds received were spent. Attach your original budget and indicate how well your estimates matched with actual expenditures. Receipts are not necessary.

Original Budget:

Conference Registration	\$ 538.11
Flight (LAX-KEF round trip)	\$ 1,091.00
Hotel (3 nights at Hilton Nordica)	\$ 912.45
TOTAL	\$ 2,541.56

The budget accurately reflected my expenditures. The Presentation Grant funds were used to pay for a portion of the hotel accommodations.

IV. SHARING YOUR PRODUCT/RESULTS

The presentation grant supported the dissemination of our work to an international audience of academic librarians. We gave a 30-minute presentation to an audience of approximately 125 conference attendees and passed out a handout that included a summary of our results and a link to our presentation. Our presentation is available to the public on the following link:

<http://tinyurl.com/EmbeddedInquirySpecialists>

