Faculty Roundtable: Cultivating Student Soft Skills

Soft skills are commonly cited as being at least as important for professional success as expert knowledge. Helping our students cultivate these skills, however, can be a challenge.

Come share your experiences, challenges, and solutions for strengthening them with “Cultivating Student Soft Skills in the Classroom and Beyond: A Faculty Roundtable Discussion.”

This event will be an opportunity for CSU faculty to come together and discuss strategies that work. It will take place on Monday, October 21 from 12:30 to 2:30 in LIB 301.

For more information or to register for this event, contact James Kowalski at jkowalsk@csu.edu or 773-995-2498. This event is a collaboration between the Department of Occupational Therapy, Human Resources, and the CTRE.

Grant Writing Workshops

This month, join the CTRE for a workshop on how to write successful grant proposals. “Writing Grant Proposals” with Dr. Kenneth Henson will be offered twice—on October 15 and 16—from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in LIB 301. Both workshops will help you:

- Design an attractive budget
- Evaluate your own proposal
- Avoid common mistakes
- Use unique circumstances as strengths

Over 30 practical tips will be covered, and will help give you an advantage in the competitive world of grant writing.

To register for one of these workshops, contact James Kowalski at jkowalsk@csu.edu or 773-995-2498.
SAVE THE DATE: 2013 UIC Urban Forum—12/5

Save the date! The 2013 UIC Urban Forum: Technology and the Resilience of Metropolitan Regions, will take place Thursday, December 5.

People and institutions engage in the public square and the private marketplaces for the purpose of promoting commerce and growth, improving the quality of life in neighborhoods and cities, and creating institutions to promote democratic governance. These interactions are constrained and shaped by the rapidly emerging technologies and access to those technologies by individuals and institutions. Today, the capacities of institutions, communities and societies to govern collectively and ensure a sustainable and acceptable quality of life for metropolitan regions are challenged. The shape and direction of metropolitan growth and development depends on access to appropriate technology, scaled to the metropolitan region, and informed by the individual, household and community needs of the city and region.

The 2013 UIC Urban Forum will debate the role of technology as a critical element in enhancing the capacity of public institutions to adjust and adapt to metropolitan regions’ emerging economic, political and social conditions. The Forum will bring together public intellectuals, stakeholders, academicians, policy analysts and citizens to examine both the enhancing and the constraining effects of technology on the capacity of local and regional governments to meet their health-care responsibilities, workforce training and education needs, demands for promoting economic development and opportunities, and service-delivery responsibilities to their citizens.

To learn more, visit http://www.uicurbanforum.org/

What’s Your Back-Up Plan?

Picture the following familiar scenario:

It’s the last class session before a major exam, and due to unexpected circumstances, you barely manage to cover half of what you intended to. Because the course schedule is already tight, you’d rather not postpone the test, so what’s your back-up plan?

Being able to cover material outside of class is easier now than it ever has been, with the advent of numerous lecture-capture applications. These allow you to record yourself presenting material, just as if you’re teaching a class. Recordings of these lectures can then be posted on Moodle which students can download at their convenience.

This is sometimes referred to as the “flipped classroom” model.

Two options that are readily available for you in Moodle are Big Blue Button and Blackboard Collaborate. Both are free to CSU instructors and allow you to capture yourself in a number of ways, such as:

1) Upload and narrate a PowerPoint presentation (microphone required)
2) Make a video recording of yourself lecturing (webcam and microphone required)
3) Make an audio recording of yourself lecturing (microphone required)

Other lecture-capture applications are available for purchase, such as Lectora and Camtasia Studio.

With these options, you are less burdened to squeeze all instruction into just regularly scheduled class time.

Images: UIC Urban Forum; Big Blue Button; Blackboard Collaborate.
At Your Fingertips: News from LIS

Compiled by Prof. Joanna Kolendo

Electronic Reference Resources

If your students are interested in pursuing a topic for research which is unfamiliar to them in order to become more familiar and fill in the gaps in their knowledge of the topic, you might want to inform them that the library has a number of online reference resources that could assist them with their initial research. Reference Resources such as Handbooks, Encyclopedias, and Dictionaries are now available online, and they provide basic and easily understandable information as well as serve as a guide to other possible resources.

Credo Reference is a 24/7 online reference library that provides access to a selection of over 400 reference books. Credo Reference includes encyclopedias, dictionaries, thesauri and books of quotations, as well as a range of subject-specific titles covering everything from art to accountancy and literature to law.
URL on-campus: http://goo.gl/x5tYuP
URL off-campus: http://goo.gl/K27pqC

Encyclopedia Britannica is a comprehensive reference product. The online version includes the complete encyclopedia, as well as Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary and Thesaurus, Britannica Student Encyclopedia and the Britannica Book of the Year. You can also use Encyclopedia Britannica Online to search an Internet directory that includes more than 300,000 links to Web sites selected, rated, and reviewed by Britannica editors.
URL on-campus: http://goo.gl/lyFnGd
URL off-campus: http://goo.gl/cwsZD1

Gale Virtual Reference Library is a database of encyclopedias and specialized reference sources for multidisciplinary research. Featured titles include Contemporary Black Biography, a 71-volume biographical reference source, and International Directory of Company Histories, a massive 93 volume encyclopedia of business history.
URL on-campus: http://goo.gl/zkpjk5
URL off-campus: http://goo.gl/NLhyRn

Fall Library Instruction Requests

Please remember to schedule library instruction sessions for your Fall classes. Where possible, faculty should submit their requests online at: http://goo.gl/FeGrwu. Faculty will receive an immediate response via email that their request is under review by the library instruction coordinator. Meanwhile, the time they requested is reserved on the instruction calendar. Once an instruction request has been approved, confirmation will be sent via email. Library Instruction sessions can be scheduled Monday through Saturday, including weekday evenings, by any member of the CSU faculty (full-time, part-time, or adjunct). Instruction sessions can be general in focus, covering the library catalogs and other library databases that may be appropriate for a broad range of academic subjects. Sessions may also be customized for a specific academic discipline or geared towards a particular course assignment. Please submit requests for library instruction at least 2 weeks in advance. The standard instruction session is typically scheduled for 50 minutes. However, faculty may also request a double BI (two 50 minute sessions). In that case, the first session would be a lecture/presentation; the second session would be devoted to hands-on activity for students. Faculty may schedule both sessions on the same day (back to back) or on two different dates. If you have questions regarding library instruction, please contact the Reference Department by phone at 773-995-2235 or by email at instructionrequest@csu.edu.
Research Guide @ Your Fingertips
An Introduction to Two LibGuides

By Dr. Fatemeh Asadi
This month’s column will introduce two LibGuides: ELCF 5900: The Adult Learner and Elementary Education 5520: Curriculum in the Elementary School created by Prof. Rosalind Fielder, the Chicago State University Library Reference and Instruction Librarian.

ELCF 5900: The Adult Learner
This guide was prepared for students enrolled in Educational Leadership, Curriculum, and Foundations 5900. The Chicago State University Library has a variety of resources that are useful for research related to education. The resources listed in the guide are representative not exhaustive. To access this LibGuide:
- From Library Web site (library.csu.edu) click on Research/Subject Guides
- Click on LibGuides@csu.edu
- On the alphabetic list of the LibGuides click on Course Guides
- Click on ELCF 5900: The Adult Learner

This LibGuide contains the following 5 (five) pages:
Page 1 (Home)
An overview of this course guide.
Page 2 (Topic Searching)
Is about keywords or key concept; Keyword search rules including Boolean Search Operators; Some search tips regarding “phrase search” and truncation.
Page 3 (Reference Resources)
Highlights two CSU online reference collections, Credo Reference, and Gale Virtual Reference Library (GVRL). Gives two example of online and eight examples of Print reference resources. Print reference resources are available on the 2nd floor of the library in the reference stacks, under the call number beginning with the letter L.
Page 4 (Article Databases)
Highlights three general databases on education (Education Research Complete, ERIC, and Professional Development Collection), two databases relevant on education (PsycINFO, SocIndex with Full Text), three multi-disciplinary databases (Academic Search Complete, ISTOR, And ProQuest Dissertations & Theses), together with an explanation of the off-campus access to CSU Library Databases.
Page 5 (Library Catalog)
Including CSU Library Catalog, and I-Share Catalog, a List of I-Share Libraries and how to open an I-Share User Account.
Page 6 (Education Data Sources)
Page 7 (Cite Sources)
Includes information about APA, MLA ans Chicago/Turabian citation styles.

ELED 5520: Curriculum in the Elementary School
This guide was prepared for students enrolled in Elementary Education 5520. Additional curriculum materials are available in the Library Education Resource Center (ERC) located on the 3rd floor of the library.
To access this LibGuide:
- From Library web site (library.csu.edu) click on Research/Subject Guides
- Click on LibGuides@csu.edu
- On the alphabetic list of the LibGuides click on Data Sources
- Click on Elementary Education 5520: Curriculum in the Elementary School

This LibGuide contains the following 5 (five) pages:
1 (Home); 2 (Databases); 3 (Lesson Plan Resources); 4 (Reference Resources); and 5 (Library Catalog).
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<td>“Discover LIS Grant Writing Resources” with Prof. Joanna Kolendo 10:30-11:30 / LIB 301</td>
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Visit the CTRE website for information on more upcoming events at: [www.csu.edu/ctre/moreevents.htm](http://www.csu.edu/ctre/moreevents.htm)