Attendance Report from LOEX 2010

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Many thanks to LIBRAS for sponsoring my attendance at the LOEX 2010 annual conference in Dearborn, Michigan this year! The opportunity to both present and attend sessions at LOEX is very much appreciated.

I attended various sessions at LOEX, but would especially like to highlight the following experiences:

Ask This Librarian: Integrating Library Tools in the Online Learning Environment
This was the session I co-presented with Molly Beestrum. It was very exciting to be accepted to present at LOEX this year, especially because it gave us the opportunity to share our embedded librarian project with other libraries. Our presentation was an overview of a library widget designed for faculty that allows them to add direct links to library resources from within individual course pages.   Our presentation slides including links to the widget code that other libraries can modify and use are available on the LOEX website. Thanks again to LIBRAS for giving us this opportunity!

A Librarian and a Hashtag: Embedded Virtually in a Classroom via Twitter
Ellen Hampton Fligo from Baylor university presented on a very interesting experiment she participated in as a virtual participant in a first-year undergraduate media studies course. Ellen made herself available to students in real time during their class sessions, sending information and answering questions via Twitter.   The experience provided the opportunity to build connections and relationships with students as well as to provide access to resources and materials as class discussions were occurring.

Building Bridges: Restructuring Online Library Tutorials to Span the Generation Gap and Meet the Needs of Millennial Students
I found this presentation by Dianna Sachs, Kathleen Langan, and Carrie Leatherman of Western Michigan University to be somewhat inspiring. Their experience in reworking an outdated library tutorial based on the changing ways in which millennial students learn was especially interesting in conjunction with the conference's opening plenary speech by Brian P. Coppola. Dr. Coppola opened the conference by describing a student-led program he designed for

chemistry students at the University of Michigan.   In his program, students self-select into Structured Study Groups which are highly successful, student-run, collaborative learning groups.   Dr. Coppola's talk segued nicely into the library tutorial presentation for me, because the two seemed to highlight the creative ways in which all of us in higher education are attempting to respond to the new learning styles of today's students.

The ideas presented in these two presentations have inspired me to propose a student led initiative at our library this summer. I would like to see our library recruit library student staff members to design and create new library tutorials for several of our library services. Having students actively involved and in some cases even creating the services we provide may be one way to help bridge the gap between our students and our services.

BiblioBouts: Online Social Gaming for Academic Research Skills Development
This presentation by Karen Markey and Christopher Leeder of the School of Information of the University of Michigan outlined their project to design, develop, test, and evaluate a computer game to teach incoming undergraduate students information literacy skills and concepts. I found their project to be an interesting example of the new ways in which information professionals are working to engage students in the instruction process.

Universal Design for Information Literacy
Elizabeth Dolinger and Ted Chodock presented on their experience designing and conducting library instruction sessions for a wide variety of learning styles, competencies and profiles. They outlined methods librarians can use to teach to a variety of learners based on the concept of Universal Design. As a web service librarian, I am very familiar with Universal Design as it applies to web development and design, but was very interested to see that concept applied to classroom teaching models. This session helped illustrate ways in which Universal Design principles can be applied to classroom instruction.

Again, thanks very much to LOEX for providing this very valuable professional development opportunity!