

Library Induction and Support for Student Transitions

Open Days

The Library currently has a presence at University open days and applicant days, whereby librarians can tell prospective students and their families about the library and the types of services that it offers.

University Induction

- Participation by Faculty Librarians at some of the induction sessions at the start of term, e.g. a short presentation about the library in conjunction with colleagues from Careers and Study Skills at the BA Hons Humanities and Social Sciences/Primary Education Induction.
- Librarians attend the International Student Orientation and offer specific induction at the start of each term, marketed directly to new international students.
- Librarians attend the *Finding Your Way* transition event for adult returners in August (usually 80-100 attendees) and give a presentation on the Library and IT entitled 'Information Services – Information and Library Resources' and talk to them over lunch. This is also attended by Finance, Study Skills, University of Strathclyde Students' Association (USSA), the Mature Students' Association (MSA). They meet mature students who are currently studying at the University as well and they can have a campus tour.

Induction tours and demonstrations

- The Library offers pre-entry tours and induction to students in response to the level of interest and anticipation, liaising with Faculty Officers to market the tours. 'University Open Day' tours for prospective students and their families/friends are also offered.
- The *Student Guide to Information Services* is distributed through Faculty induction packs and when students first arrive at the Library. It contains essential information for getting started with Library and Information Services.
- In 2013/14 the Library introduced a new induction tour scheme which offered drop-in tours of the library building. For the 2014/15 session the number of tours offered was expanded, and it offered SUPrimo (catalogue) 'Find it Fast' drop in sessions for the first time, to coincide with Library tours. Both proved popular with students. These helped students to get started with searching for material on their reading lists, promoting independent learning and effective information searching behaviours from the outset.
- Librarians work with colleagues from English Language Teaching to ensure students enrolling on the pre-sessional English courses get the appropriate level of library induction.

Working with Other Services - Benefits to Students

Students often comment on the approachability of Library staff and they are conscious of being a very visible hub service with the ability to signpost other support services. Librarians encourage new students to go to the Library when they are not sure who to ask and a large part of its general induction programme is building relationships with students to break down any preconceptions or worries they may have, not only about using its services, but also about navigating through the University as a whole. The long opening hours mean that staff

are available when other support services are not, so students depend on librarians to help find information that may not fall within their remit.

- The Library works with the Study Skills team to provide a space where they can deliver their workshops in the library.
- The Library is committed to bringing other student support services into the Library; for example, student support services include Careers advice and guidance and some of the Students' Association's wellbeing activities, especially around exam times. Librarians are in the process of working with Student Counselling Services to create a collection of self help materials which students can access in the library.

Supporting Teaching - Benefits to Students

- Involvement in Departmental teaching at an appropriate time , e.g. targeting library sessions at specific assignments.
- Types of induction vary and tend to consist of a variety of elements. An example is that provided for National Centre for Prosthetics and Orthotics (NCPO) students, which consists of:
 - A two-stage library induction. In the first two weeks they come for a seminar-room session where they are talked through the basic information they need and given a demo of SUPrimo, then they work in teams to complete a simple exercise sheet of navigating around the library, finding books, and learning facts etc.
 - About 6 weeks later they attend for a longer lab-based session to introduce them to the concepts of literature searching. They look at basic search strategy, how to think about keywords and synonyms, the differences between searching in different places (SUPrimo, SUPrimo Articles, Google, Google Scholar) and look into finding full-text of articles.

Introducing students to these ideas helps them to learn in stages. Many are not confident in using the library, so the time between the sessions allows them to become familiar with the basics of borrowing books and navigating the space before they have to start developing more detailed skills.

Inductions for other subject areas consist of part, or all of that listed above.

Feedback from academic staff indicates that such sessions are beneficial, and, importantly they build a good relationship between the librarian and students, the latter see that there is an additional line of support available.

Library induction sessions provide a staged introduction to skills and knowledge that students require at university, which may not have been necessary at school or college. They are also useful for familiarising students with their new environment and introducing them to valuable support staff.

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