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First-Year Student Initiatives at an Urban Research University

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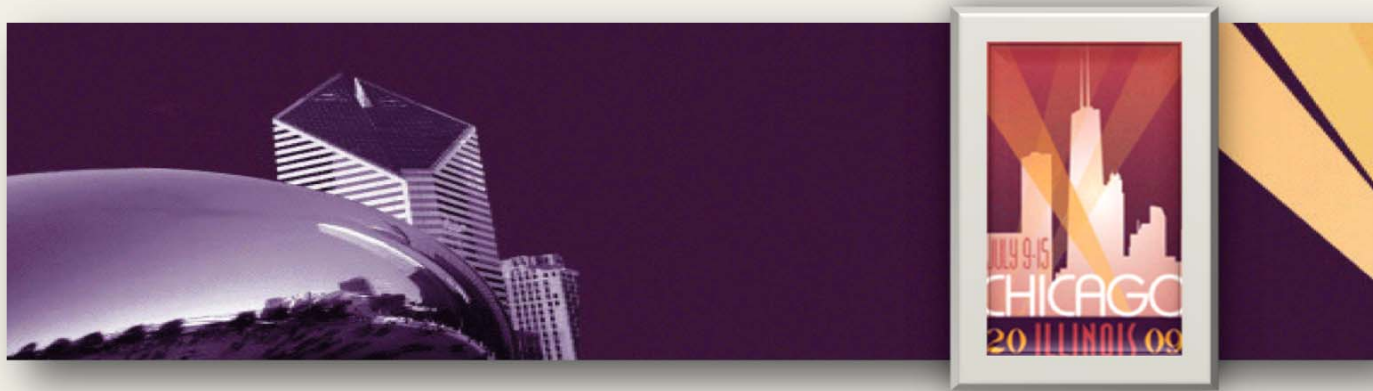*Wayne State University*, carriemoore1@boisestate.edu

First-Year Student Initiatives @ an Urban Research University

http://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/libsp/6

Carrie Croatt-Moore, Information Services Librarian (Science & Engineering Library)

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Role of the Library in University-wide Academic Orientation

iStart is a mandatory program for incoming first-year students
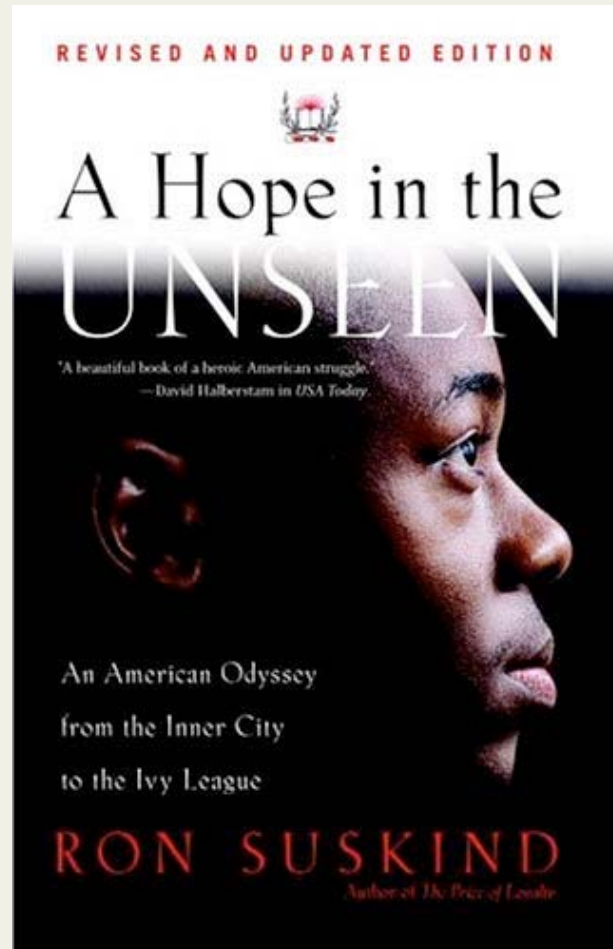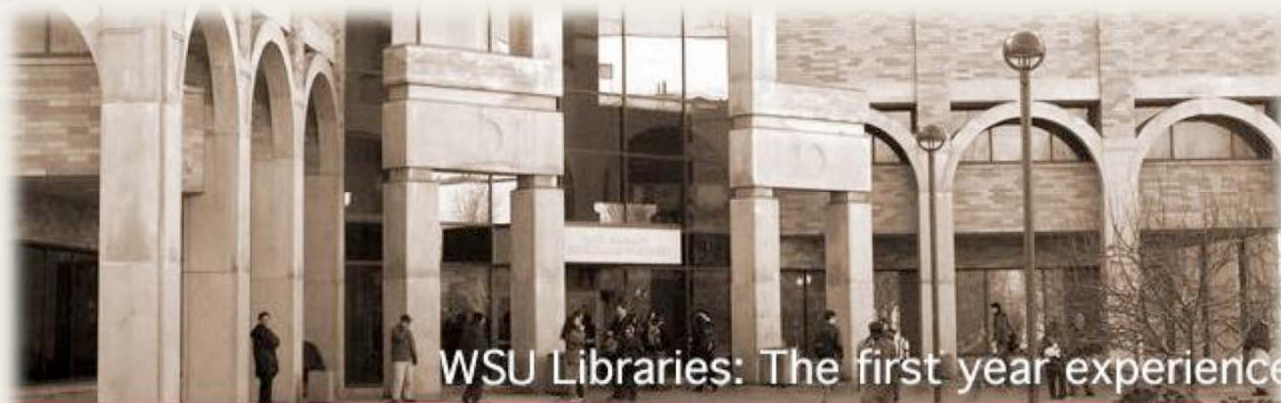
Peer Mentor Training

Student leaders, are selected to lead small groups of students.

- the Amazing Warrior Challenge

- a book discussion on the Summer Reading Experience book

- financial literacy and time management activities

- Warrior Service Day

Summer Reading Experience

Library Outreach to First-Year Students via a Customized Webpage

http://www.lib.wayne.edu/sites/fye/

The Process

The Charge:

- Develop a webpage for beginning students to support the university's first-year experience initiative

The Team:

- Five librarians (Instruction Team Librarian, Web Librarian, Computing Services Librarian, two Information Services Librarians)

The Process

Goals for the page:

- To be "unlike" typical library pages
- Focus on the essential information
- Have fun!

Development

- Began Spring 2006
- Researched other libraries' pages focused on first-year students
- Gathered ideas for content from first-year students

The Outcome

- A portal to guide students to the campus resources needed to support academic success debuted Fall 2006

- Provides "one-stop shopping" environment by bringing together library information and resources with university-wide services

- Design inspired by University of Minnesota's Undergraduate Virtual Library (http://www.lib.umn.edu/undergrad/)

WSU Libraries: The first year experience

Hours at the UGL for Today: 8:00am-11:00pm / Extended Study Center Hours: Open 24hrs

How Do I?
- Get reserve items
- Find a computer
- Locate a Study Room
- Get free classes on PowerPoint, EndNote, etc...
- Get help with my multimedia assignment
- Get computer help

Need Help? Ask a Librarian
- AIM screenname: waynelibrarian
- Chat with a Librarian
- Email a Librarian
- See a Librarian in person

LOL, Weird News...
- Cheese beats Baboon Metaphysics in odd book prize
- No. 1 lady detective series?
- Pizza-making machine has chefs in a spin
- Priests get jail for stealing from church
- Sorry no training, TV ad

Renew Books
Renew Books, View Checked-out Items, See Fines and more...

Assignment Planner
Start Date:
3 - 30 - 2009
Due Date:
__ - __ - 2009
Calculate!
You CAN beat the clock!

Campus Connections
- Help with papers (Writing Center)
- See an advisor
- Financial Aid
- Need a Job?
- Tutoring
- Testing Center
- Campus Health Center
- Course catalog
- Schedule of classes
- Campus maps
- People Search
- Where to eat

Find Articles
Find articles using the library.
Search: [____] go
For more databases see the Articles and Databases list

Find Books & Movies
Find books (like textbooks), and movies using the library catalog.
encore
Search [____]

Did You Know?
Detroit's Eastern Market is the largest wholesale/retail market of its kind in the U.S.! Saturday's at the market are crazy busy -- check it out! from: The Detroit Almanac

- **Library Services**—renewing books, getting reserves, reserving study rooms, and other essentials, including Ask a Librarian!
- **The Assignment Planner**, a time management tool
- **"Campus Connections"** links to university services such as advising, class schedules, tutoring, places to eat, the Writing Center, and other "essentials"
- Current day's **hours** for the UGL
- **"Find Articles"** a metasearch that generates a list of articles available online from selected fulltext library databases
- **"Find Books and Movies,"** a WSU catalog search to locate materials in the library.
- **"Fun Stuff"**—Students can read "Weird News" from Reuters RSS feeds or learn unusual facts ("Did You Know?") from a whimsical family of librarian avatars.

Usability Testing & Page Effectiveness

TASKS

- Find the books on reserve for the BA 1010 class taught by Clinton Andrews.
- What time does the Undergraduate Library close?
- How do you renew books you have checked out?
- If you were assigned a project on 3/1/2007 and it was due on 5/1/2007, by what date would you need to *find, review, and evaluate books*?
- When does Priority Registration for summer classes begin?
- How would you find where Shapero Hall is located?
- Find a journal article on the global warming.
- Find out if the library has the book *Fast Food Nation* by Eric Schlosser and if it is available for checkout.
- Check your Wayne State e-mail.

Student Feedback

- Following the task completion portion of the testing, participants completed a short paper questionnaire.

"You don't have to search a lot to figure out what to do."

"I like the layout and I will probably use this site in the future for the majority of information I need. I like the inclusion of a "did you know?" Section and the weird news section."

"But I really like the Assignment Planner and how easy it was to find articles/books."

"If it were more advertised or known, then I am pretty sure students will use it on a regular basis."

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