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Integrating Resources and Research: Faculty & Information Professional Collaboration for a Better Student Research Experience

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Integrating Resources and Research

Faculty & Information Professional Collaboration for a Better Student Research Experience

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OBJECTIVE

To join forces between faculty and information professionals, in order to provide an environment where students reach their potential and become more confident learners and researchers.

CHALLENGES

Constantly expanding quantity of information poses many challenges for students.

Research techniques and tools can become a labyrinthine-like situation.

COLLABORATION

-to work jointly with others or together especially in an intellectual endeavor (Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary)

Collaboration between faculty and Libraries and Cultural Resources (LCR) staff establishes a base of reference support and plays a role in courses across the University curricula.

Information fluency is integrated into the academic curriculum, often through inquiry-based learning initiatives.



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PARTNERING ACROSS DISCIPLINES

Liaison relationships include: teaching information fluency in embedded settings within or outside inquiry-based learning initiatives, formally scheduled sessions, research kits, hospital rounds, curricular review and integration, guest lectures, tutorials, facilitating access to resources, programmatic reviews, office hours / appointments, exhibitry, digital humanities, and collections development.

Course / Program Examples



Highlights

ASHA (Arts and Science Honours Academy) - a unique opportunity for bright students to grow in an multidisciplinary program.

German 349 (Foundation for Research in German) – mandatory for German majors, and piloted into the curriculum in 2001-2002.

Law 703 (Legal Research & Methodology) – a unique partnership to include scheduled tutorials for Law graduate students.

DEFINITIONS

Information fluency is the ability to access, make sense of, and use information to build new understandings. ... students must not only know the skills, but also apply the skills fluently in any personal or academic learning situation. Information fluency skills make sense to students when they are engaged in a coherent process of inquiry and learning." (Stripling, 2007)

Inquiry-based learning "a process where students are involved in their learning, formulate questions, investigate widely and then build new understandings, meanings and knowledge. That knowledge is new to the students and may be used to answer a question, to develop a solution or to support a position or point of view." (Alberta 2004)

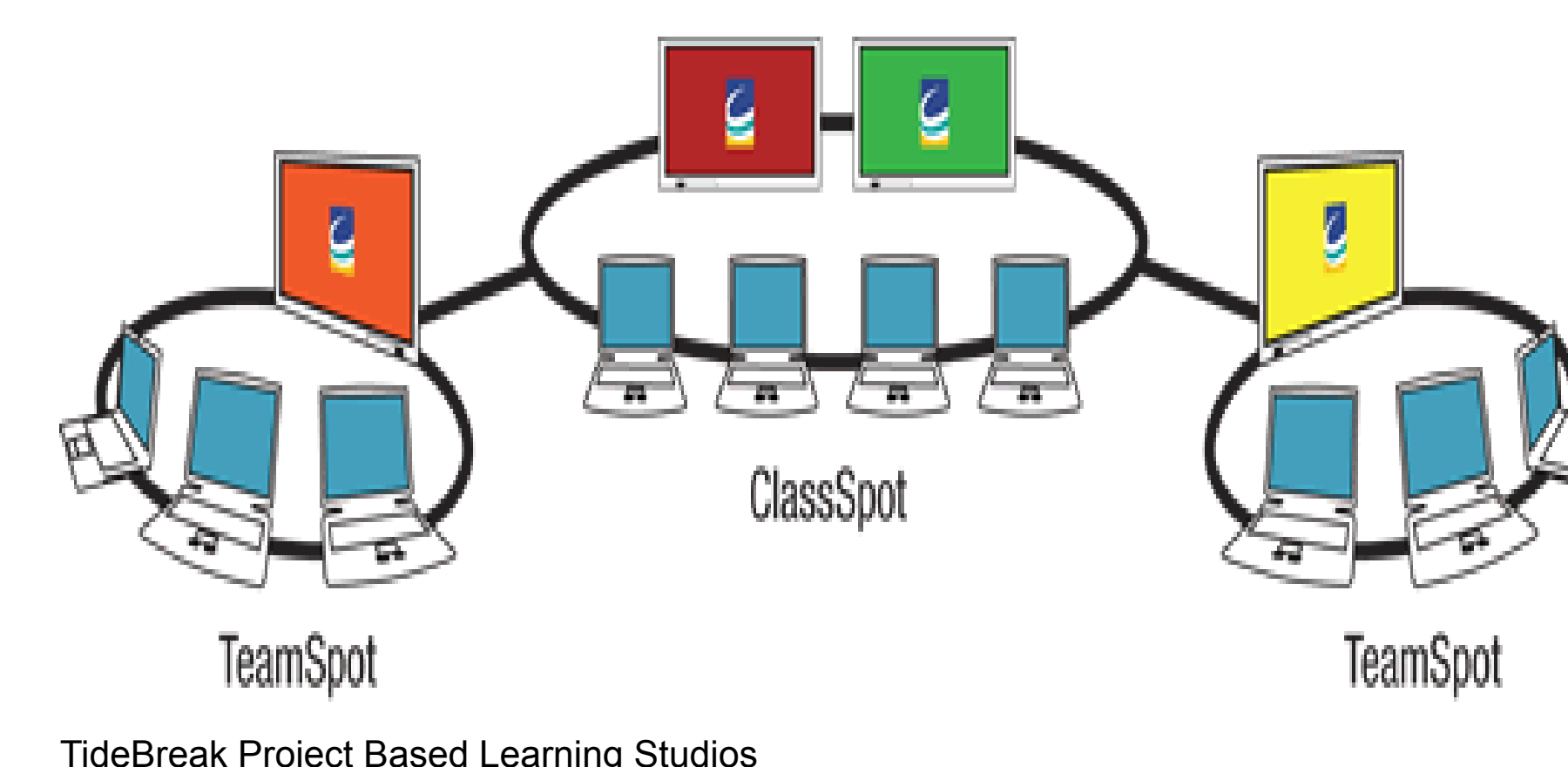
HANDS-ON LEARNING RESOURCES

Electronic databases
 Museum objects
 Library collections
 Audio-visual resources
 Archival sources
 Games
 Educational kits

LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES

Software to support small group and class collaboration

- Technology creating an environment for people to work and learn together
- Promoting integrated collaboration in the classroom



Tools to create, explore, manipulate, and share physical and digital objects

- **Document Camera** for use in classroom instruction
 - Allows detailed study of physical materials collaboratively or by exhibit through magnification
- **Touch and display technologies**
 - Visualization Room, touch table, digital globe
- **Digital Media Commons**

METHODOLOGY

Initiation of the research process

Introducing and integrating course-related resources

Hands-on use of techniques and tools

- Database searching
- Source evaluation

Embedding oneself in the curriculum, resulting in multiple classes per semester

Introduction/examination/investigation and use of primary sources, collections, teaching kits, government documents

Bibliographic data management

In-person and virtual support for student assignments and projects at library branches on all campuses and other integrated services throughout the TFDL, including:

Visual and Performing Arts
 Digital Media Commons
 Centre for Scholarly Communications
 Learning Commons
 Arts and Culture Reading Room and Reference Service
 Spatial and Numeric Data Services
 Assistive technology room
 Visualization studio
 Nickle Arts Gallery

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