



The Heart of a Library: Getting to Know Each Other

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Impetus for Series

Part of larger mentoring program

Large cohort of new employees

Siloed work environment

Little engagement with coworkers outside immediate sphere of work

Request from a mentee

Organizing the Series



Library Departments

- Government Documents
- Scholarly Communications
- Special Collections
- Digitization Center
- Access Services
- Instruction and Student Engagement
- Research Services
- Administration
- Technical Services
- Library Information Technology Services
- Teaching with Primary Sources

Planning with Departments

- Emailed department heads with a quick description of the project and suggested dates
- Presenters decide on format and content
- The goal was a broad overview of activities and general responsibilities
- All presenters agreed to participate

Logistics of the Series



- Meant to take place over Summer 2021
- First session: June 2021
- Presentations scheduled twice a month
- Hosted over Zoom:
 - No limits to attendees
 - Recorded for future use
 - COVID precaution
- Grace Allbaugh introduced the sessions and facilitated questions
 - 30-40 min presentation with time for Q&A at the end
- Videos saved to several locations:
 - Microsoft Teams folder
 - Microsoft Stream Site
 - Private YouTube playlist

Expanding the Series



Invitation to the whole
library



Presentations on specific
topics



Responsiveness to feedback

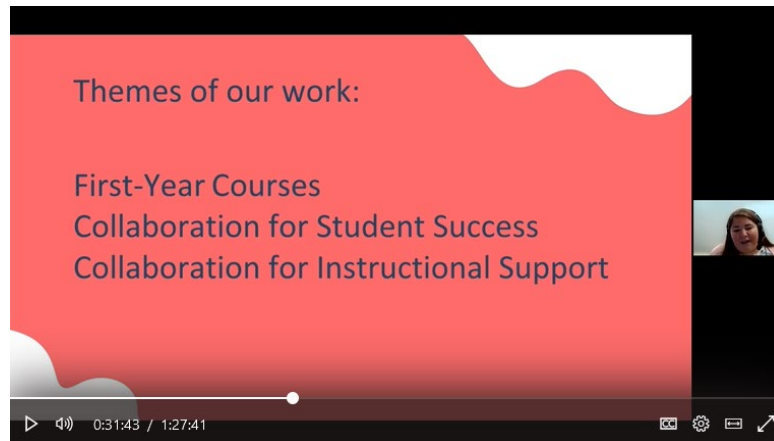
Examples: Season 1



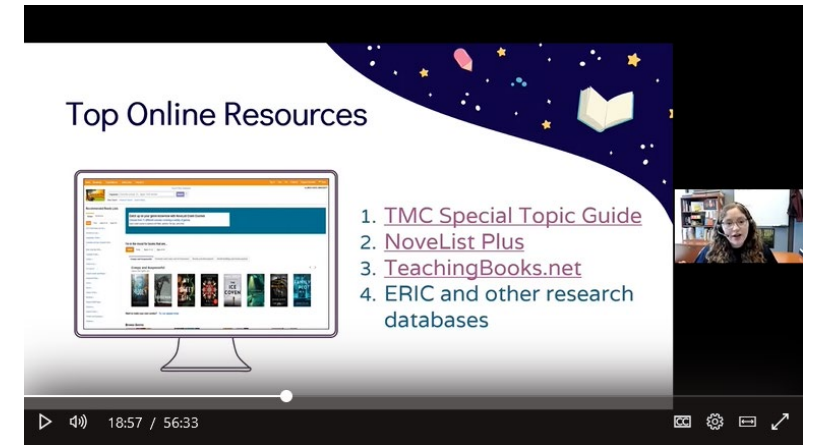
Milner Circus Collection



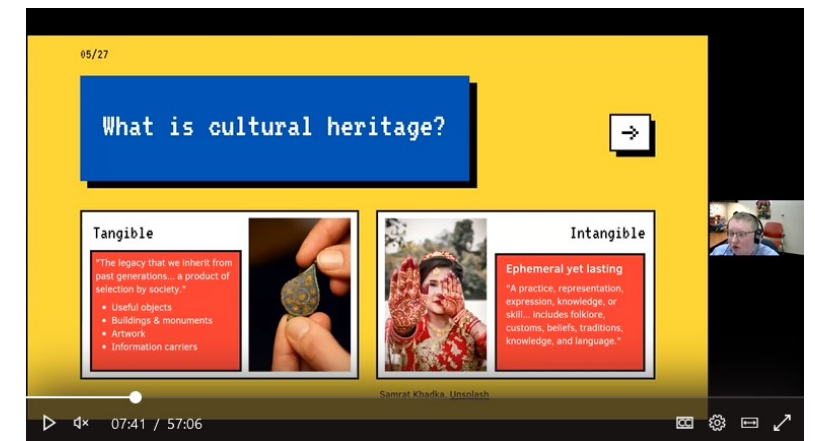
Instruction & Student Engagement



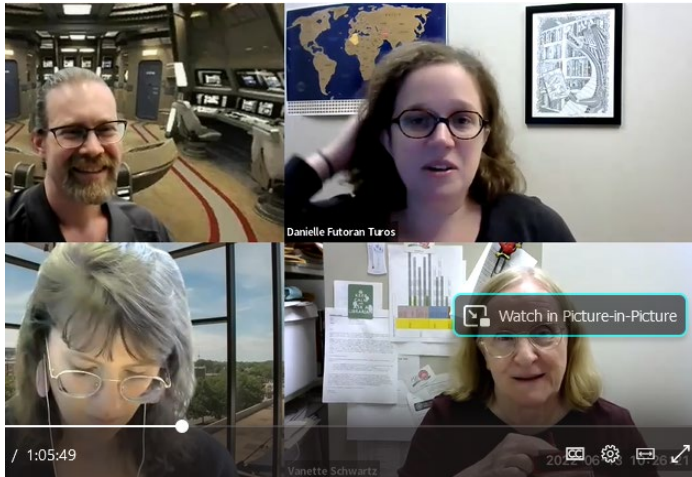
Teaching Materials Center



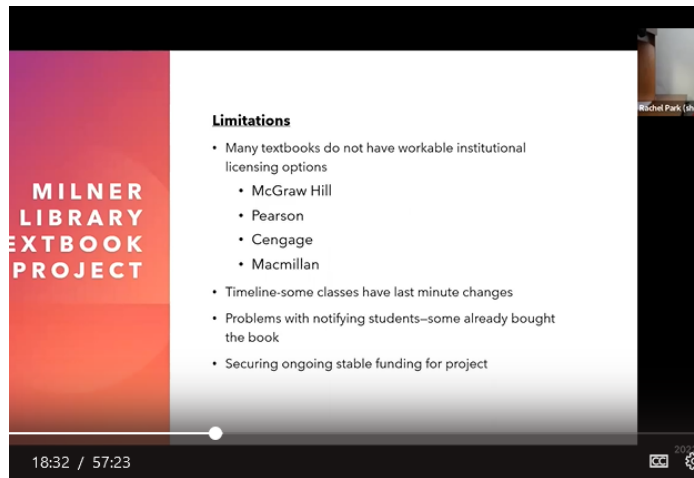
Digitization Center



Liaison Librarians



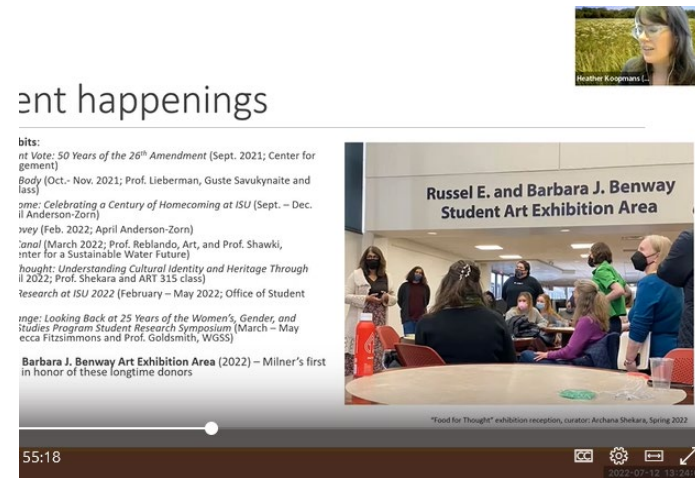
eTextbook Project



Mentorship Team



Exhibits and IDEA Committees



Examples: Season 2



Feedback



- Colleagues expressing interest in doing more sessions
- Colleagues sharing positive experiences about sessions
- Mentorship surveys: these presentations always rated very highly
- Requests for Getting to Know Milner sessions to share information & collaborate

Reflections



Benefits:

- Easy way to share information
- Illustrates the value of colleagues' work
- Showcases the collaborative nature in our work
- Retention and recruitment tool
- Keeps a record of current workflow
- Marketing tool for library
- "Getting to know" coworkers

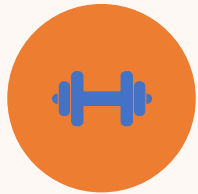
Reflections



Challenges:

- Scheduling
- Oversaturation
- Busy schedules of the audience
- Not overburdening coworkers with too many presentation requests
- Keeping the sessions relevant
- Length of presentations

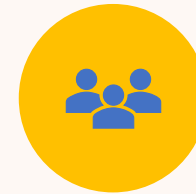
Suggestions for Applying at Your Library



Lean on colleagues to help!



Streamline scheduling



Maintain a list of current and future presenters



Accessibility concerns



Test technology



Prompt audience



Thank You!

Questions?



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