

Speech Pathology Writing Boot Camp at Miami University

This article describes the successful collaboration between a Speech Pathology faculty member and library liaison to use library space and resources to achieve student success at Miami University. The library as a space is currently being redefined to meet the changing needs of patrons, most notably the Makerspace. A Speech Pathology faculty member and I collaborated to assist thirteen junior and senior students as they completed an inquiry-based learning assignment using an innovative paradigm. The faculty member suggested using the library's computer lab as a dedicated Writing Boot Camp space for the students as they neared completion of their research assignment. The idea stemmed from her previous positive experience in a faculty writing boot camp. Three one hour and twenty minutes class sessions were dedicated to the library-based Writing Boot Camp. The faculty member and I were available to students for one-on-one consultations throughout the class sessions. During the first class, I walked around to introduce myself to students and offer individualized help. Both the faculty member and I arranged tables for students to approach us for in-depth one-on-one consultations. Students asked me seven questions during the first library-based Writing Boot Camp. The questions ranged from how to develop strong research questions, find reliable resources, use successful search methods, and properly cite. Notably, I learned that most students used Google Scholar as their sole resource. Other students also used the library catalog; however, none of the students used databases. The faculty member and I discussed this issue and decided to include a brief lesson on the value of library resources over Google Scholar, key databases in the field, and useful search strategies during the second library-based Writing Boot Camp. The students completed a survey upon completion of the library-based Writing Boot Camp. All but one student provided strong positive feedback about holding the Writing Boot Camp in the library. Anonymous responses include, "it was a great space to write and allowed for proper help/resources", "the environment allowed me to concentrate more", and "I loved being able to switch it up and hold class in the library—it was new and different!" The Speech Pathology faculty member recently won the Outstanding Professor of the Year Award for empowering students to succeed. This innovative use of library space is currently being evaluated for implementation on a larger scale.

-Anna Liss Jacobsen, Miami University