Teaching and Learning Concept Paper
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We teach our user community.

University of Alberta Libraries [UAL] has a robust instructional program which consists of a number of key components, all of which are designed and delivered to help our user community find, access, use, evaluate, integrate, synthesize, present and publish a wide range of information in support of their research, teaching and learning efforts.

Key components of our instructional program include:

Program and Course-integrated Instruction: In 2016/2017 UAL staff taught over 700 classes to approximately 21,000 participants in courses at all levels. [updated: May 2018]

Includes credit based courses. For example, the Systematic Review Searching workshop is part of the "Information Skills for Health Professionals" program, a self-approved group learning activity defined by the Maintenance of Certification program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

Co-Curricular Instruction: UAL offers a wide range of general workshops and orientations in collaboration with partners such as the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, Undergraduate Research Initiative, University of Alberta International, the Centre for Teaching and Learning [CTL], etc. Library workshops may also contribute to continuing education credit.

Online Educational Resources: Foundational library tutorials; eClass Library Resources course block; subject/course guides

Educational Programming: human library, exhibition program, Images of Research Competition and Exhibition, Research Data Management Week, Open Access Week, Fair Dealing Week, Science Literacy Week, etc.

We teach our professional library community

In addition to teaching our user community about what the library can offer to support their research, teaching and learning, UAL also provides education and training to future and current library professionals. Just as a teaching hospital provides clinical education and training to future and current health professionals, UAL offers an array of programs in service to the profession. The following programs and services are signature elements of our teaching library.

SLIS Partners' Week program: Librarians at UAL [and in the Edmonton area] offer to host a SLIS student for a few hours. The students are given the list of librarians that have volunteered along with their job title and brief summary of their main activities. They sign up to be partnered with the librarian matching their interests. It is an opportunity for students to investigate potential career paths and put their schoolwork into context by meeting with library professionals.

Practicum Support for LIS/LibTech Programs: Every year, many UAL staff volunteer their time to serve as supervisors for practica that are required or elective components of many LIS and library technician programs in Alberta and across the country.

UAL/SLIS Collaborative Program: This program is offered in collaboration with the UAlberta School of Library and Information Studies [SLIS] and annually provides 8-10 eligible SLIS students with part-time work experience in the academic library environment. It also provides them with the opportunity to put into practice the skills and competencies being acquired in library school. Successful applicants are employed in a casual position acquire a realistic understanding of the links between their learning and its application in the workplace.

Indigenous Internship Program: This program, also offered in collaboration with SLIS, provides 1-2 First Nations, Métis and/or Inuit people people per year with the opportunity to contribute to the work of UAL while pursuing a Master's degree in Library and Information Studies at SLIS. Successful interns are provided with paid tuition for two years at SLIS either full or part time, as well as part-time employment in Learning Services during the academic year and full-time during the summer.

Library Residency Program: UAL's residency program provides 2-4 new LIS graduates with full-time employment as a sessional librarian in a UAL unit for 1 year. Key components of this program include: assignment of a UAL mentor for the duration of the program, a robust orientation and training program, support for select professional development opportunities, and an articulated residency project outside of their home unit for the year with clearly defined outcomes. This program is designed to provide strong support and structure for new graduates as they transition from school into the workplace.

International Relations Program: The aim of this program, which started in 2010, is to engage in reciprocal professional relationships with academic libraries around the world to the benefit of both UAL and its international partners. UAL shares its knowledge and experience by providing professional development and training opportunities through visits to partner institutions and hosting international librarian colleagues locally. This works supports the development of libraries and their capacity worldwide while enhancing its own understanding of the global academic library context.

UAL Staff Development and Training Program: This program offers all UAL staff a wide range of training and professional development opportunities to support them in their specific job roles and in their ongoing development. In house peer training, participation in UAlberta training programs through Organizational Health and Effectiveness, attendance at relevant conferences are just a few of the many options that are available to UAL staff and supported by our annual Staff, Development and Training Fund. A new component of this program, offered in partnership with CTL, provides workshops for library faculty to support their teaching role re: best pedagogical practices, program assessment, peer review of teaching, etc.

Future Developments: In addition to these existing programs, UAL is keen to expand the scope of its teaching library further by developing opportunities to offer internships, residencies and fellowships to students, new graduates and postdoctoral fellows with unique disciplinary backgrounds that contribute to new and emerging library roles and services. For example, in

support of its new Digital Scholarship Centre, there is potential for UAL to bring in people with backgrounds in computer science, humanities computing, research data, etc.

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