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Onboard from the Beginning: A Successful Library Partnership with a Distance Learning PhD Program

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Onboard from the Beginning: A Successful Library Partnership with a Distance Learning PhD Program

FACRL Conference October 18, 2013

One Week Last August

- PhD in Aviation Residency Week
- Library participation
 - Three-hour library instruction class
 - The Reception
 - The Thank you Dinner
- How did we get here?

A Little Background on Us

- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- Three campuses
- Two libraries
 - Hunt Library
 - Hazy Library
- Programs
- Degrees

By the Numbers

- Daytona Beach
 - Approximately 5200 residential students
- Prescott
 - Approximately 1750 residential students
- Worldwide
 - Approximately 25,000 students
 - Taking classes in over 150 centers
 - Enrolled in online classes
- Primary degree programs
 - Aeronautical Science
 - Aerospace Engineering

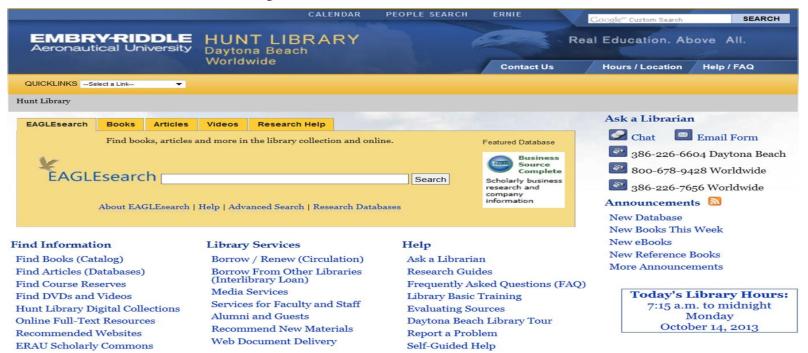
PhD in Aviation

- Only PhD in Aviation
- Mission:
 - Produce outstanding scholars for careers in research and teaching
- First cohort in 2009
- Geared to working adults
- One intense week-long residency in Daytona Beach every year
- Remainder of the program is online

Hunt Library

- Located on the Daytona Beach Campus
- Support both campuses with the same staff
- Access to reference
 - Email
 - In-person
 - Chat
 - Telephone
- Document delivery

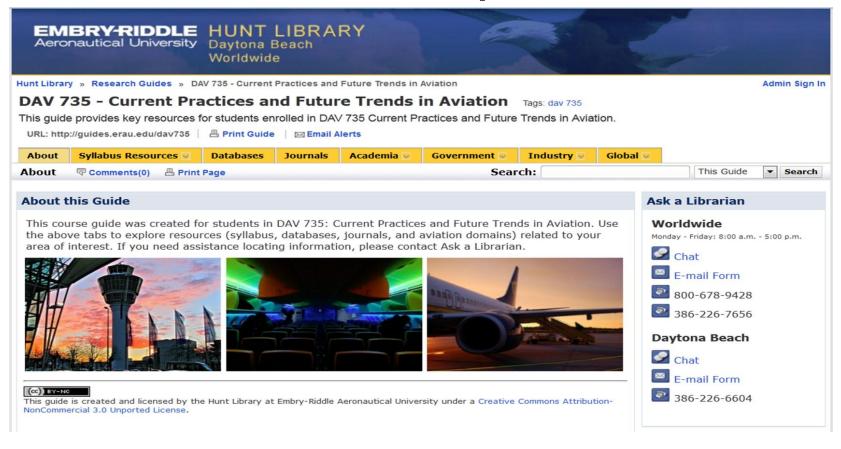
Hunt Library Website



Distance Learning Library Services at ERAU

- In operation since 1971
- Riddle Aviation Collection
- Intense Reference Support
 - Originally phone and mail
 - Now, email and chat
- Document Delivery
- Electronic resources
- Discovery tool
- Research Guides

Research Guide Sample



Embedded in the PhD Program

- Intense research class during residency
- Specialized information resources
- In-depth reference assistance
- Regularly involved in discussions with Doctoral Studies Chair
 - Funding
 - Incorporation of library instruction into research process
- Moral support at the dissertation defense

Embedded Librarianship

"The idea behind the embedded librarianship model is to enable librarians to demonstrate their expertise as information specialists and to apply this expertise in ways that will have a direct and deep impact on the research, teaching, or other work being done. Through embedded librarianship, librarians move from a supporting role into partnerships with their clientele, enabling librarians to develop stronger connections and relationships with those they serve."

Carlson & Kneale, (2011), p. 167

How Did We Embed So Effectively?

- About eight years ago ...
 - Hunt Library associate director for reference & worldwide library services (Kathleen) represented us on the curriculum committees
 - She attended all meetings
 - Discussion on possible doctoral programs surfaced in the graduate committee
 - Kathleen repeatedly advocated for attention to the library resources needed for doctoral programs

PhD Planning Committee

- Formed in 2008 to create a PhD proposal
- Kathleen and the Worldwide campus librarian,
 Ed, invited to be members
 - No voting rights but active participants
- Degree proposal contained library impact assessment
 - Developed by Kathleen and Ed
 - Substantial input from faculty

The PhD in Aviation is Green-lighted

- ERAU hires a department chair
- Dean asks him to work with library as he develops the curriculum
- Beginning of a strong collaboration
 - Annual collaboration on library funding needs
 - Incorporation of library instruction
 - Students encouraged to use library resources
 - Library services/resources highlighted in monthly newsletters

The Partnership

- The Hunt Library is integral to the PhD in Aviation program
- We collaborate with faculty to educate these students to be researchers
- We go to their parties
- We go to their defenses
- Students tell us they would not have achieved the degree without us
- We are truly embedded

The Moral of the Story

- Importance of advocacy
- Who we send to sit at the table makes a difference
- Proactive rather than reactive
- Keep talking until they listen
- Never rest on your laurels

Conclusion

- The embedded librarian needs to be everywhere the conversation about distance learners
- Different people need to embed at different levels
- Advocacy/involvement from library administrators can make a difference

Questions



Thank you!

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