



the EXCHANGE

an ALCTS/LITA/LLAMA Collaboration

Advisors as Allies: Connecting Libraries and Academic Advising

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HELLO!



I'm Laura!

I'm the Student Success Librarian for Campus Engagement at the Miami University Libraries in Oxford, OH. In my role, I liaise with a number of campus student support units. I connect with students through engagement efforts like our Personal Librarian Program.



Learning Objectives

Attendees will identify strategies for connecting and collaborating with academic advising staff.

Advisors and librarians work closely with students, serving as mentors and guides. Advisors and librarians connect students to valuable information critical to their success.

*How can librarians and advisors
support each other?*

Advisors as Allies



Referral

Advisors to library: Refer students in upper-level or research-focused classes to their subject librarian. Share relevant library events and programs.

Librarians to advising: Use platforms like Personal Librarian or other engagement efforts to share advising information. Refer students with academic or career advising questions.

What leads to successful referrals?

Education: Once librarians and advisors understand when to direct students to one another, referral can become a regular component of student consultations.

Collaboration: When librarians and advisors frequently network and work together, trust is built that can facilitate increased referrals.

The following slides highlight this librarian's approach to education of and collaboration with advisors on the Miami University Oxford campus. **These successes can be replicated to facilitate library-advising partnerships on other college campuses.**

Education

Canvas Module



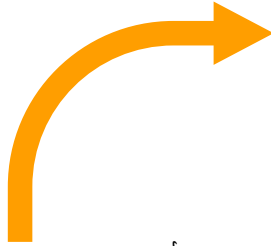
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Module was developed after approaching Associate Provost overseeing Undergraduate Academic Advising. Goal of module is to **provide academic advisors with guidance** in order to feel confidence **in referring to the Miami University Libraries.**

Developed for **Fall 2019 new advisor training** & delivered via optional **Canvas** module.

Other optional modules include “**special topics**” such as:

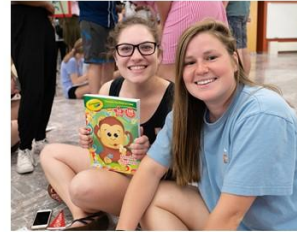
- financial aid
- career development
- study abroad
- & more



One of module slides sharing some of the engaging Libraries' opportunities advisors can refer students to

Engage

- » Workshop series supporting student success, covering both essential academic concepts and advanced skills and technologies
- » Educational, entertaining and engaging events



Module includes **slides**, link to **YouTube screencast** with voiceover, and additional information.

- ❑ Slides available @ bit.ly/2x6BOqu
- ❑ YouTube screencast available @ youtu.be/8xYx2jxVWZ4

Librarians as Resource Guides

- » Librarians connect students to resources important for success:
 - » Physical and print collections
 - » Online resources
 - » Technology and software
 - » Study rooms
 - » Printing, copying, scanning
 - » And much more...



Module slides framing librarians as "guides" and "mentors" – familiar language to advisors who play similar roles for students

Librarians as Research Mentors

- » Librarians foster student development of information literacy skills
- » Refer students to their:
 - » Personal Librarian
 - » Subject Specialist Librarian



“Special Topics Related to Advising” module includes an **end of module quiz**. **One question relates to the Libraries’ content:**

“Every first-year and transfer student is assigned a Personal Librarian. True or False?”

Collaboration

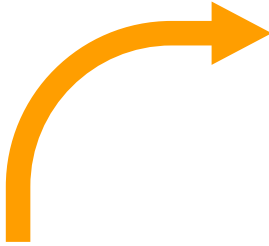
Advisor Campus Organization



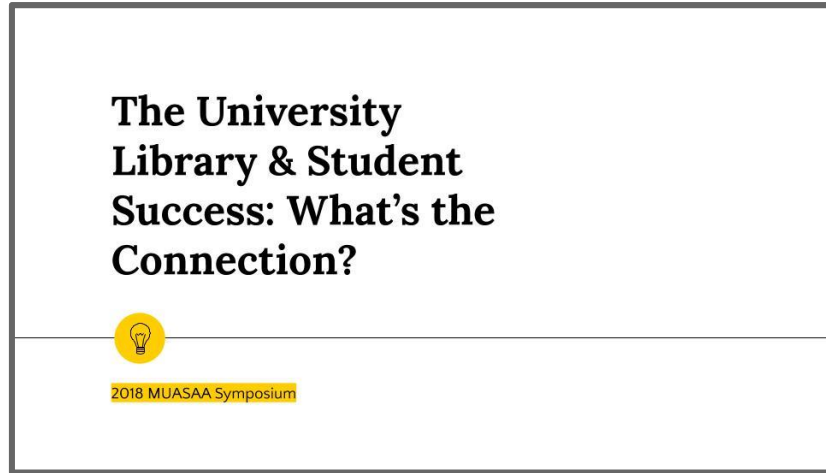
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The Miami University Academic Support and Advising Association (MUASAA) is “dedicated to supporting academic advisors at all university levels including faculty, professional staff advisors, academic support personnel, and other entities engaged in advising-related duties.”

Librarian membership in MUASAA and Libraries participation in MUASAA-sponsored events has **increased advisor awareness of the role of librarians on campus.**



Full slide deck available at
bit.ly/34rd80x



Librarian involvement in the annual MUASAA symposium has included:

- A 25-minute **breakout session**, “The University Library & Student Success: What’s the Connection,” accepted and presented @ 2018 event
- A **keynote by the Dean and University Librarian** @ 2020 event
- Librarian membership on 2019-20 symposium planning committee and **co-chair appointment for 2020-21 committee**

Librarian participation in MUASAA service projects has led to **increased visibility of librarians on campus**. Service projects have included:

- ▣ **“MUASAA Gives Back”**
 - ▣ Handwritten holiday cards to student veterans
- ▣ **“Midterm Motivation”**
 - ▣ Handed out pens and printed words of encouragement in student center
- ▣ **Food Drive**
 - ▣ Collected personal and food items from students moving out of dorms during finals week

No advisor organization on your campus?
Start your own!

Workshop Series



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Student Success Librarians and College of Arts and Sciences advisors partnered to offer a **workshop series** targeting **undecided students**.

Librarians **attended advisor-led workshops as a resource for students** and Student Success Librarian for Foundational Learning additionally **developed a libraries-led workshop in the series**.

Libraries-led workshop was hands-on and informal, and **focused on resources useful for researching companies**, such as:

- [Hoover's](#)
- [MarketLine](#)
- [Business Source Complete](#)



Next Steps

What's next on these initiatives?

- Poll advisors to **measure library awareness**, confidence in referring to librarians, and identify additional opportunities.
- Propose and **execute a library service project** in partnership with campus advisor org.
- Develop an **online module** version of content from Libraries-led workshop in collaborative series.

How do you currently work with or plan to work with advisors on your campus?

THANKS!

Questions?

Contact me at laura.birkenhauer@MiamiOH.edu or
[@LMBirkenhauer](#) anytime!