

2004

Core Curriculum and the Library at Seton Hall

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Recommended Citation

Beth S. Bloom. "Core Curriculum and the Library at Seton Hall" Library of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Beijing, China. May. 2004. Available at: http://works.bepress.com/beth_bloom/9

Seton Hall University

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May 2004

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Core Curriculum and the Library at Seton Hall

Assuring Library Participation in Curriculum
Evolution

Beth Bloom, May 28, 2004

Beth Bloom

Topics Covered

- Process of developing new Core at Seton Hall University: Stages of Development
 - Proficiencies
 - Issues
- Librarians' role in the process
 - Arguments for inclusion
 - Best Practices



Initial Stages of Development

- Summer Seminar
- Extension of Idea to faculty and provost
- Proposal to Faculty Senate
- Election of Core Curriculum Committee
- Dreaming/Planning/Brainstorming
- Back to reality; how are we going to make this happen?



Intermediate Stages of Development I

- Planning to plan
- Looking for models
- Three Town Meetings of faculty and administrators
- Discussion and feedback
- Collating the results
- Planning the next steps



Intermediate Stages of Development II

- Buy-in from faculty necessary
- Template for presentations to individual departments
- Assignments for each committee member
- Pre-visitation surveys
- Collection of data
- Presentations to departments (Spring 2003)



Intermediate Stages of Development III

- Digesting departmental reactions
- Development of workable models
- Discussion of practicalities
 - Cores of individual colleges
- Which model is best for Seton Hall?
- Choices made based on Seton Hall culture



Latter Stages of Development

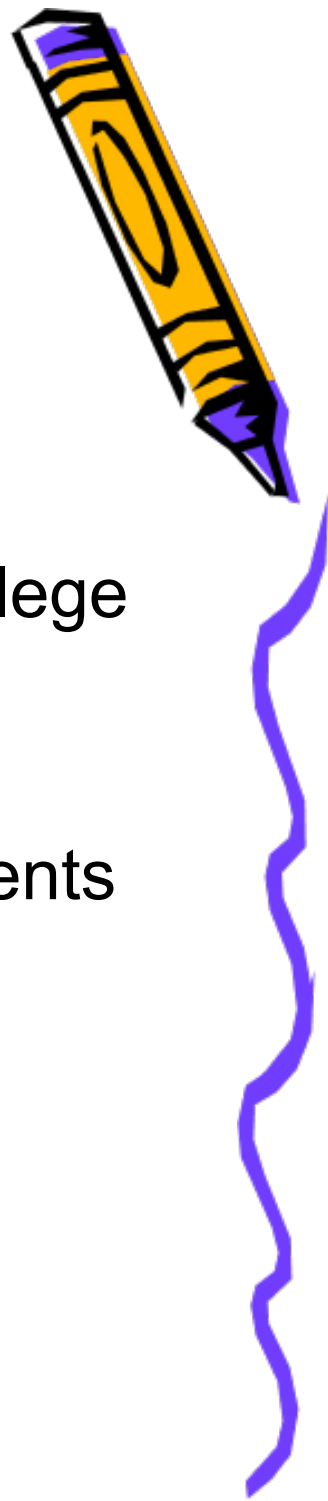
- Decision to combine models

Infusion of educational ideals throughout college experience?

OR

Design a few special courses that offer students a “Signature Experience”?

- All of the above, guided by desired outcomes



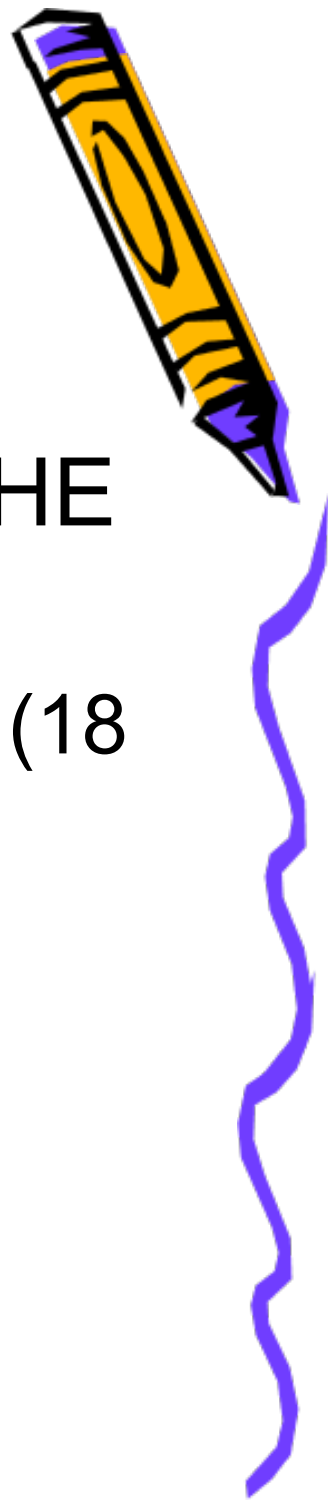
Latter Stages of Development II

- Need to include various principles
 - Catholic
 - Global—move beyond Western culture
 - Diversity
 - Reaffirm the value of a liberal-arts education



Latter Stages of Development III

- THE THREE COMPONENTS OF THE CORE:
 - Odyssey of the Mind, Heart and Spirit (18 credit series plus a capstone)
 - Universal Proficiencies
 - Literacies and Methodologies



Proficiencies

- Reading and writing
- Speaking
- Critical thinking
- Information technology
- **INFORMATION LITERACY!!!**



Literacies and Methodologies

- Science
- Ethics
- Aesthetics
- Multicultural/Global/Historical Perspectives



Issues

- Turf
- Implications of the need for change
- Politics



So, How Does the Library Fit in to the Picture?

- Librarians were part of the initial Catholic Studies Core Curriculum Study Group
- Librarians are members of the Faculty Senate Seton Hall
- Librarians were elected to the Core Curriculum Sub-Committee
- Librarians had designed and taught a course on Information Literacy at SHU



So, How Does the Library Fit in to the Picture?



- AND....

- The librarians were recipients of a Curriculum Development Initiative (CDI 4) grant
 - Librarians work with faculty
 - \$75,000.
 - Develop online tutorials that address IL



The Arguments I

- Information Literacy must be an essential part of the Core Curriculum
 - ACRL standards for Information Literacy
 - Student behavior at the reference desk
 - Student behavior during classroom library instruction sessions
 - Poor quality of papers
 - Careless use of Internet resources



The Arguments II:

- Library Participation in IL Initiatives
 - Student Centeredness
 - Research Expertise
 - Pedagogical Materials
 - Collaboration
 - International Partnerships
 - Information Literacy center
 - Continuing education



Core: Best Practices Using the Library

- University of Washington
- Earlham College
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute
- Indiana University –Purdue University at Indianapolis
- Evergreen State College



University of Washington

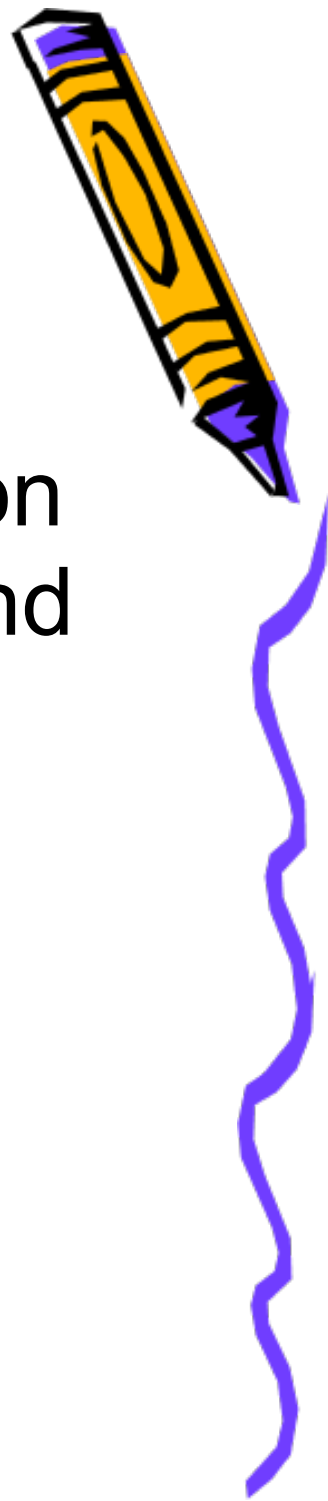
The UWIRED program

Faculty and librarians receive technology training and develop coursework that integrates this technology



Earlham College

Assignments developed in collaboration
between a teaching faculty member and
Librarian.



Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

College librarian program. Librarians
set up offices in the colleges



Indiana University-Purdue at Indianapolis



Instructional teams approach.
Program within University college.



Evergreen State College

- Interdisciplinary team based instructional model.
- Faculty and students study a single topic.



What's ahead?

Librarians are included in planning of the:

- Curriculum Development for the infusion of Universal Proficiencies
- Curriculum development for infusion of literacies and methodologies



And the Future?

- Librarians will be involved in training faculty to infuse information literacy into their new courses?
- Librarians will partner with teaching faculty to infuse information literacy into their new courses?



And the Future?



Information Literate Students



Beth Bloom

References

- [Seton Hall University Libraries](#)
- [ALA/ACRL IL Information](#)
- Scott, Walter (2000), “Case Studies in Collaboration: Lessons from Five Exemplary Programs,” in: **The Collaborative Imperative. Librarians and Faculty Working Together in the Information Universe.** ACRL.

