Integrating Research Instruction into the Curriculum: A Model for the Chemical Sciences

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Problems

- Students struggle writing SIP introductions
- Study Abroad during junior year
- Chemical Abstracts on Dialog too limited and difficult to use
Needs

- Add research instruction to curriculum
- Expand research resources available
Hybrid model of research instruction:

- 3 classroom interactions with a librarian
  (Junior Seminar in Chemistry)

- Web tutorial
  (How to use SciFinder Scholar)
Advantages

- Reinforces concepts learned in FYS
- Address different learning styles
- Help students write SIPs
- Learn to use SciFinder Scholar
- Web-based tutorial available 24/7
Since Last Time...

- MLA Presentation
- Articles in LOEX News
- Completed Tutorial
- Planned classroom time
- Mini usability study
  - Volunteer chemistry majors (4)
- Created pre- and post-session surveys
- Taught Junior Seminar
So How Did It Go?

- **Tutorial**
  - Changed jargon according to student feedback

- **Junior Seminar**
  - Session 1: Stacy administered pre-session survey and taught general searching
  - Session 2: Greg taught Structure Searching
  - Session 3: Administered post-session survey
Where Do We Go From Here?

- Analyze surveys
- Disseminate results
  - To Chemistry Department
  - To K College community
  - To wider audiences
Project Difficulties

- Time!
- Communication of abstract concepts
- Tutorial content limited; skill based
- Student participation on team
- SciFinder mechanics; natural language
- Librarians’ lack of Chemistry expertise
Keep in Mind...

- Everyone needs to feel invested
- It’s OK to change gears
- Participation varies according to skills
- Think long term!