The University of Alabama Libraries and Student Support Services (SSS) Partnership: Non-Traditional Outreach to Academic Support Programs

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LibGuide
Created just for SSS students, containing info to help familiarize students with UA Libraries’ locations and hours, online resources, accessibility information, and news & events.

Weekly Outreach
During our weekly outreach hours, we provide students with group or one-on-one consultations for research support, reference and citation help, and general information inquiries. We have arranged our weekly outreach hours to coordinate with the day and time a tutor will also be at Osband Hall.

Instruction
Each semester we provide instructional services to students enrolled in SSS including:
- A tour of the library
- An overview of the library website
- Basic research skills
- Orientation to LC call numbers
- How to locate a physical book or journal in our collection
- An introduction to the other libraries on campus and the services they provide
- Introduction to ILL
- Info on Scholarly vs. Popular

Web Presence
We worked with SSS to have a library presence on their webpage. Useful library information has been added, such as the library homepage, link to the SSS LibGuide, and a link to our Ask-a-Librarian FAQ page. In addition to the above, librarian contact information and research consultation requests can now be found on the webpage.
Open House
To increase our visibility with students, we met with SSS to discuss how to advertise our outreach efforts. Through a combined effort, we planned and implemented a well-attended Open House at Osband Hall in Spring 2016. Refreshments were served, and we brought library swag (sunglasses, highlighters, and stadium

Next Steps
Alabama Reach
- Foster youth (former & current)
- Emancipated minors
- Homeless youth
CrossRoads
- Diversity & inclusion
- Intercultural
Veteran & Military Affairs
- Serves 3000 military-connected students

What is Student Support Services?
UA’s SSS Program aims to increase retention and graduation rates of first generation college students, students with limited family income, and students with disabilities, funded through the U.S. Department of Education’s Federal TRIO Programs. UA’s SSS Program serves 200 students each year. Participants must be first generation college students, have limited family income, or be registered for accommodations with the UA’s Office of Disability Services. They must also have at least one program-approved academic need, which may include low GPA or test scores, failing grades, or majoring in underrepresented, highly-demanding and rigorous majors such as engineering, math, nursing, accounting, pre-med/biology, or pre-pharmacy.

References/Read More About it!
Appleton, L., & Abernethy, P. (2013). We said ... we did!: A partnership approach to developing library and student support services. New Review of Academic Librarianship, 19(2), 208-220.


Sanabria, J. E. (2013). The library as an academic partner in student retention and graduation: The library’s collaboration with the freshman year seminar initiative at the Bronx Community College. Collaborative Librarianship, 5(2), 94-100.


The University of Alabama Student Support Services Program. (n.d.). Retrieved from http://sss.ua.edu/