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Providing for graduate student information needs at a large research university

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Providing for Graduate Student Information Needs at a Large Research University

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Today’s talk

- Background
- The Many Aspects of a Grad Student
- “Traditional” Services
- “Non-Traditional” Services
- Future / Additional Considerations
Chemistry Department at Purdue

~60 Faculty

~43 Faculty active in research

~310 Graduate students
  ~60 new graduate students each fall

~200 Undergraduate majors
  ~30 graduates each year
Information Specialists at Purdue

• Meant to combat the notion of “silos”

• Current Information Specialists:
  – Chemical
  – Molecular Biosciences
  – Biomedical Sciences
  – Agricultural Sciences
  – GIS
Think of Graduate Students As:

• Students
• TAs
• Researchers
• Job seekers
• Potential information professionals
“Traditional” Services

Orientation and Tours

• Prospective Student tours
• Summer Research Library Tours
• Fall Orientation
“Traditional” Services

Instruction and Outreach

• Grad Courses (one shots)
• Chemistry 513 course
• Ice Cream Seminars
Purpose of the Seminars

- Focus on new graduate students
- Awareness of Libraries and their services
- Teach how to choose appropriate resources
- Help with Original Proposition (OP)
Format of the Seminars

- Lecture setting in seminar room
- Informal atmosphere
- No registration
- 1 hour, every other week
- Early evening
- Incentive – Ice cream!
Seminar Topics and Content

• Resource based
  – Mainly in Fall Semester
  – Focus on one or two resources per seminar

• Topic based
  – Mainly in Spring Semester
  – Focus on topic, incorporating multiple resources
Typical Fall Semester

- SciFinder Scholar
- Beilstein – Fact and Text Searching
- Beilstein – Structure and Reaction Searching
- SPRESI\textsuperscript{web} and comparison
- EndNote
- + one other
Spring Semester - Topical

• Property Searching and Data Manipulation
• Patents and Intellectual Property
• Chemical Industry and Business Information
• Citation Searching and JCR
• Current Awareness Services
• SciFinder in Industry
Binder System

- 3-ring binder
- Clear cover has semester schedule insert
- Handouts have holes punched
- Meant to encourage repeat attendance
- Places further emphasis on content
- A growing resource kept at-hand
Most / Least Attended

• Most attended
  – SciFinder Scholar
  – EndNote
  – Citation Searching / JCR
  – Current Awareness Services

• Least attended
  – Spectra
  – Property Searching and Data Manipulation
Evaluation Results

• Overall very positive
• Want more hands-on experience
• Want practice problems/examples
• Almost exclusively from chem department
Other Benefits

• Get to know first year grad students
• Learn how they are using these resources
• Help each other troubleshoot
• Works by word-of-mouth as well
• Way into research groups
“Traditional” Services

Marketing and Advertisement

• Articles in GSAB Newsletter
• Graduate student listserv
• This Week in Chemistry (Departmental Calendar)
“Non-Traditional” Services

• After hours access and “talk”

• OP Help Session
  – Sponsored by Iota Sigma Pi - National Honor Society of Women in Chemistry

• Other libraries’ seminars
  – Engineering
  – Life Sciences
“Non-Traditional” Services

• Research groups
  – EndNote
  – ChemDraw

• Computational Chemistry Lab

• Talk about roles of information specialists
Future / Additional Considerations

- Hire graduate assistant for computational chemistry lab
- Create graduate chemical information course
- Interact more with student & research groups