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A library treasure hunt: An alternative way to introduce new university students to the library

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The Library treasure hunt – introducing the first year student to the landscape of scientific information

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CHALLENGES

- The library must compete with the first year students excitement for the subject, curiosity for new class mates and initial social activities.

BACKGROUND

- The conventional lecture or guided tour of the library was not succesful.

OBJECTIVE

- To make the first encounter with the library useful, fun and memorable.
- To provide all students with a minimum level of information literacy.

METHOD

- Learning by doing.
- Hands-on excercises.
- On the spot assessment.
- Reward system.

ATs – Students **report** on their findings directly to the librarian who gives instant **feedback**.

ILOs – Students **communicate achieved results**.

Students receive a **stamp of approval** from the librarian on the treasure map.

After this students get their next assignment and **continue** on their quest.

A symbolic **reward** (treasure) is given to each student for **mission accomplished**.

Librarian says good-bye and welcome the students **back to the library**.

Students gather in the library and **meet the library staff**.

Students are given a quick **presentation of the library** and an introduction to the treasure hunt.

Students are divided into smaller groups and given their **first assignment**.

Students discover the **physical and digital library collections** and **services**.

TLAs – Students **complete the assignments together** in groups.

ILOs – Students demonstrate the **capacity for teamwork**.

RESULTS

- All students receive a minimum level of information literacy.
- Threshold to contact the library later on in their studies is lowered.

SUCCESS FACTORS

- Close collaboration with course teacher and management.
- To make the library introduction an integrated and compulsory part of the course programme.

ADDED VALUE

- Students practice team work.
- Interlibrary staff cooperation.
- Subject library profiling.

DEVELOPMENTS

- New technology to enhance the use of the digital collection.

