Spring 4-1-2016

You’re in Good Company: Developing a Research Conference for Advanced Graduate Students in the Humanities

Brian Vetruba  
*Washington University in St Louis*

Daria Carson-Dussan  
*Washington University in St. Louis*

Melissa Vetter  
*Washington University in St. Louis*

Follow this and additional works at: [http://openscholarship.wustl.edu/lib_present](http://openscholarship.wustl.edu/lib_present)

Part of the [Arts and Humanities Commons](http://openscholarship.wustl.edu/lib_present/15) and the [Library and Information Science Commons](http://openscholarship.wustl.edu/lib_present/16)

Recommended Citation

Vetruba, Brian; Carson-Dussan, Daria; and Vetter, Melissa, "You’re in Good Company: Developing a Research Conference for Advanced Graduate Students in the Humanities" (2016). *University Libraries Presentations*. Book 23.  
[http://openscholarship.wustl.edu/lib_present/23](http://openscholarship.wustl.edu/lib_present/23)

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the University Libraries at Washington University Open Scholarship. It has been accepted for inclusion in University Libraries Presentations by an authorized administrator of Washington University Open Scholarship. For more information, please contact [digital@wumail.wustl.edu](mailto:digital@wumail.wustl.edu).
You’re in Good Company

Developing a Research Conference for Advanced Graduate Students in the Humanities

Daria Carson-Dussán
Brian Vetruba
Melissa Vetter
Inspiration

• Gap between librarian and graduate student interactions between first-years and dissertation stage

• Cornell University Library’s four-day long workshop for graduate students

• “Darn! I wish I had known that when I was writing my dissertation.”
Conversations with Stakeholders

- Faculty strongly supported conference idea
- University Writing Center involvement
- Week or two right before fall term
- Research refresher and writing tips
- Faculty involvement in sessions favored
- Fight against, “You feel like you have to do everything yourself. It feels like cheating to get help.”
- “You’re not alone” became “You’re in Good Company”
Conference, 2014

- Writing and Researching the Dissertation: Blueprint for Success
- Managing Your Stuff in the Humanities
- Become an Expert Library Researcher
- Tap into Archives and Special Collections: Learn the Ins and Outs of Finding and Accessing Archival Materials, Manuscripts, and Rare Books
- Cameras, iPads, and Apps, Oh My: Using Technology for Research and Archival Work

FACULTY AND WRITING CENTER STAFF CO-LED SESSIONS
2014 Attendees Area of Study
21 TOTAL
Feedback, 2014

• Highly valued hearing from faculty members!

• Top-rated session: “Writing and Researching the Dissertation”

• “I think this was a great thing to do for students. I wish I had had this kind of support when I was writing my dissertation!”

• “I had some questions answered and was introduced to new databases that will become crucial (as it turns out) for my subsequent research process.”
Takeaways, 2014

• Double time for logistics
• Need logistic support on day of conference
• Students need more time to talk about own research
• Provide smaller segments of technology
• Need for an ice-breaker

Survey, 2015

• Rate possible session topics
• Rate interest about specific tools
• Advertise 2015 conference
• “Early Bird Registration”
Conference, 2015

- Going from ABD to PhD: Writing and Finishing the Diss.
- Tips and Tricks for Getting Published and Funded
- Ready-Set-Go—and Research!
- Don’t Lose Your Sh*t: Apps and Managing Your Research Data
- Tech Break Out Session
  - Scrivener
  - Zotero and Mendeley
  - Evernote and OneNote

Changes from 2014

- Increased faculty participation
- Session on publishing
- Technology Sessions
- Recorded Sessions
2015 Attendees Area of Study
19 TOTAL
Library Grant to Record Sessions

- Record sessions not technology related so they would not become outdated
- Record faculty and librarians
- Post on YouTube and guide for people who could not attend
- Provide video/footage for campus partners of their sessions

Entire conference playlist available
Teaser Technology Videos

• Technology related topics were condensed to three-minute infomercials

• Could then be shared and used to market other library workshops

• Workshops offered in fall and spring semesters have similar offerings to this conference

Entire conference playlist available
Feedback, 2015

• *Going from ABD to PhD* session most highly rated

• Students thought publishing session was not relevant for them at this point

• Tech sessions were a great success

• More hands-on time with apps

• Too much break time
2016

• Funding approved from library administration. Yeah!
• Location challenge due to library renovation
• Graduate student on Planning Committee
• 1-day conference with more concurrent sessions
• Un-conference session (tables with different topics)
• Additional campus partners: Career Center
Recommendations

- Start planning six months ahead
- Look at campus calendars to schedule conference date(s)
- Teams for planning
  - Promotion
  - Food, room
  - Sessions
- One digital hub for attendee info (Google Docs, LibCal as a registration system)
- Hire students for logistics (e.g., nametags, lunches, etc.)
- Prevent cabin fever and vary room locations (morning and afternoon sessions in 2 separate spots)
- Informal gatherings for attendees and librarians
- Hand out paper surveys, for higher return rate
Additional Resources

2015 conference guide:
libguides.wustl.edu/goodcompany2

2014 conference guide:
libguides.wustl.edu/humresearchstudio

Daria Carson-Dussán (carson-dussan@wustl.edu)

Brian Vetruba (bvetruba@wustl.edu)

Melissa Vetter (mvetter@wustl.edu)