P-16 Outreach: Easing the Transition to Academic Libraries
Rory Elliott, Liz Hibbs, and Tricia Boucher

TEAM PURPOSE
The Alkek Library Community Outreach team sought to meet certain team goals when it decided to partner with the Center for P-16 Initiatives. These were to:

- **Increase Partnerships with Other College Departments**
  The Alkek Library is striving to partner with other college departments in order to improve services to Texas State University students, faculty, and community users.

- **Increased Referrals**
  Partnering with other college departments increases referrals between the departments - helping people get the assistance they need.

- **Better Public Relations**
  Building partnerships with other college departments increases the profile and reputation of the Alkek Library.

PROGRAM GOAL

**Improve College Preparedness for High School Students by Introducing Them to an Academic Library.**

Students at Texas State University have expressed library anxiety due to lack of awareness regarding services and resources, as well as due to the sheer size of the Alkek Library. The team was excited to proactively address some of these issues with future students, empowering them to use their college libraries effectively.

The team sought to reduce library anxiety and help ease high school students’ transition to college by re-envisioning the library staff, spaces and resources as open and supportive rather than intimidating.

- **Staff as friendly, helpful people**
  Librarians still have the reputation of “shush-ers.” We wanted to show the students that academic libraries are full of helpful people wanting to assist them in their future research projects.

- **Spaces as open for exploration**
  The Alkek Library is the size of 7 football fields stacked on top of each other. This size can be intimidating, so we wanted to empower the students to explore and find things that might interest them.

- **Technology and resources as useful**
  While some of an academic library’s resources are similar to a highschool’s, we wanted to give the students a chance to use the databases and resources while learning basic library research skills.

SAMPLE ACTIVITIES

1. **Welcome to the library!**
2. **Call Number Shuffle**
3. **Scavenger Hunt**
4. **Research 101**
5. **College Lingo**
6. **Wittliff Gallery Tour**

ASSESSMENT

The team conducted two types of assessment with very different goals.

- **Interactive activities and games to gauge student learning**
  The resulting data helped us understand whether or not the activity goals, and through them the program goals, were reached.

- **A simple survey including both a likert scale and short answers**
  The data collected was about student perceptions of the program to help us improve it.

Based on the assessment data, we will need to make several adjustments to the program.

- **Adjust programming**
  We will need to adjust the length of the program. Most students felt that a full day was too long, so we will change it to a half-day going forward. Students also requested more activities and less of anything that resembled a lecture.

- **Adjust assessment**
  While we suspect that the students learned quite a bit from the program and activities, we will need to add a pre-test to assess their prior knowledge on the subject in order to get a real understanding of the new knowledge they gained.

- **Expansion**
  Expand program to include Texas State University’s Upward Bound program.

FUTURE STEPS

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

About this program:
http://guides.library.txstate.edu/P-16_Outreach

About the P-16 Initiative: