Abstract

Test preparation can be stressful for students, but focusing on smaller bits of information can help. In this case study, the librarian collaborated with faculty to help students identify knowledge gaps and recommended short concept readings to review. This is a high-impact, point-of-need service that other librarians may want to try out.

ACRL Framework: Research as Inquiry

This strategy of test preparation also relates to the ACRL Framework of “Research as Inquiry,” as students “formulate questions for research based on information gaps,” and “synthesize ideas gathered from multiple sources” 1. In this example, ideas would come from the textbook, lecture notes, flashcards, and other resources. Breaking down new knowledge into bite-sized pieces, such as flashcards, may help students retain information. Furthermore, students may improve recall if they review all of the information in one session and repeat the process on another day.

Case Study - EDG 4905 Course

For this case study, the professor of EDG 4905 (CTE Test Prep) asked the subject librarian for additional resources to help students review content to pass the Florida Teacher Certification Exam (FTCE): Engineering & Technology Education (6-12). The librarian reviewed the practice tests and the competency list and posted a set of LibGuide links to Encyclopaedia Britannica on essential concepts. Students were encouraged to take the practice test first, identify their knowledge gaps, and then click on the concept review links they still needed to learn. This test-taking strategy was paired with a live online instruction session in which the librarian demonstrated searching for information on concepts they got wrong on the practice test. Assessing the effectiveness of this strategy can be through informal feedback or comparing test performance before and after the concept review.

Bite-Sized Info Creation – Assessment Cycle

The librarian meets with the professor, reviews the test info, and creates links.

Assessment

- **Student Feedback** – One student recommended hosting the webinar earlier in the semester and grouping links by competency, as seen on this poster.
- **Pre-test Post-test assessment** – to see if students passed the test (in Spring 2019).
- **Page Views** – FTCE certification page viewed 52 times June to August 2018.

References