Common Misconceptions

Why won't more instructors embed their campus library in their online courses? Some believe that it would be too time consuming. Others are worried of losing control of their software. And many aren't convinced that an embedded library would make that much difference to their students. **However...**

Librarians save you time by helping you create a library presence in your courseware.

In your courseware management system you can establish the librarian as a guest (no control) co-instructor (limited control) or co-designer (equal control). It's up to you.

Studies suggest that students are more positive about their online research-oriented courses when the library/librarian is present in the course.[1]

Studies suggest that the embedded library/librarian improves student performance.[2]

Embedding the library/librarian in a course improves student performance, but only if that course is research-oriented. In courses requiring little to no research, the presence of the library or librarian is not critical to student success.[3]

1. Lander, B., Beagle D., Steele, J., & Steele, R. Rethinking online instruction: From content transmission to cognitive immersion. *Reference & User Services Quarterly, 43*(4). 337-345.

2. Hearn, M. (2005). Embedding the librarian in the classroom: An intensive information literacy model. *Reference Services Review*, 33(2). 219-229.

3. Fraser, M. Buxbaum, S., Blair, A. (2002). The library and the development of online courses. *Journal of Business & Financial Librarianship, 7*(2/3). 47-59.

This brochure is a synopsis of the poster. For complete details, please contact the author.

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Indiana State University
More. *From day one.*

Improving student performance

## Embedding your campus library in your online courseware

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Abstract

For faculty teaching online classes requiring research assignments, providing appropriate library support becomes a problem. Many students naively turn to freely available internet resources, such as Google, when working on their assignments. But such tools do not always offer the appropriate scholarly information that they require. To assist students with their research, faculty often counsel them to visit the campus library where the librarian will help them navigate a bewildering array of free and proprietary databases. Providing an equivalent level of personal research support to online students can be challenging. Traditional library services to online learners include access to remote databases, online tutorials, and interlibrary loan. But the presence of the librarian as a concerned and caring guide is often missing in online courses. Research suggests that faculty think integrating library resources and services into their online courseware is a burden. This misconception is usually held by those who are unaware of the types of services available to them. In most universities and colleges throughout the United States and the United Kingdom, librarians support faculty with their online teaching by relieving time pressures and assisting in publishing and technology issues. These practices focus on creating student-centered, customized online research experiences that improve student performance. At Indiana State University (ISU), librarians assist faculty in building their Blackboard courses by performing a variety of services such as creating customized tutorials and guides, participating in online discussion forums, video conferencing, and providing just-in-time research counseling by monitoring wikis, threaded discussions and following class assignment schedules. We strive to become an unobtrusive but accessible presence in the online teaching environment. Experience has shown that our faculty see our services as valuable and time saving, while students express appreciation for our assistance. This poster session offers examples of how ISU librarians are assisting faculty with their online teaching. Attendees will walk away with a greater understanding of what their campus library can do to help them build and manage courses.

The Embedded Library
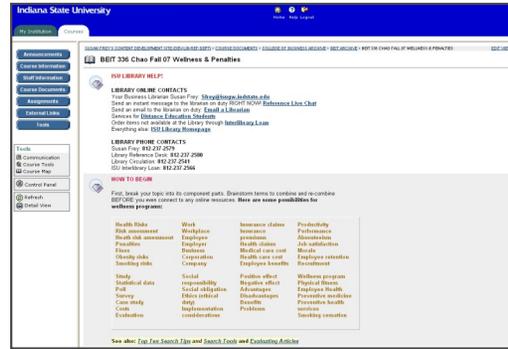
This Blackboard folder is the ISU's Library's presence in a 300 management class. It was created by a librarian to add to the instructor's pre-existing courseware.

At ISU, students and faculty can send questions to the librarians via email and instant messenger. These services are publically available but are also linked into courseware for the student's convenience.

The Embedded Librarian

ISU librarians serve instructors and students in online environments in a variety of formats. Librarians have experimented with video reference service and video class conferencing.

A librarian added to a course as a Guest Lecturer, Co-Instructor, or Co-Designer is an **Embedded Librarian**. Some of the services provided to online students are:

- Guide students through the maze of internet and library resources.

- Provide just-in-time assistance while monitoring in-class wiki's and threaded discussion boards.

- Help students access materials that the library does not own.

- Help students access library-owned materials that are not online.

- Resolve technical difficulties in accessing online materials.

- Help students select and evaluate appropriate research resources.