

The University Libraries Virtual Learning Community

Peer Professional Development During a Pandemic

Jenny Dale & Sam Harlow
UNCG University Libraries



Who are we?

Jenny Dale: UNCG Information Literacy Coordinator

Jenny came up with this project as a way to build community and to reduce anxiety for colleagues who were looking for remote work opportunities. She serves as the project manager.

Samantha Harlow: UNCG Online Learning Librarian

Sam consults on the project based on her experience with virtual trainings, including helping with the logistics of registration, scheduling, hosting, recording, and archiving sessions.

Context – Peer professional development

- We have existing structures of internal training/professional development
 - [Library Instructional Technology Training](#)
 - [Summer of Assessment, Library Assessment Team](#)
 - And a lot more! Here is a link to a presentation Jenny Dale, Sam Harlow, and Maggie Murphy did at the North Carolina Library Association Biennial Conference in 2019 on our internal training sessions and structure:
<http://go.uncg.edu/growth>

Context – Issues within and beyond our library

- Spring 2020 in our Library
 - A major leadership change that caused uncertainty
 - With this change, there has been an increase in anxiety and a perceived decrease in morale
- Spring 2020 beyond our Library
 - The COVID-19 Pandemic has significantly impacted our campus, as it has for nearly all educational institutions
 - Courses moved online as of March 23, many library employees shifted to remote work in mid-March
 - Statewide stay-at-home order went into effect March 30

University Libraries Virtual Learning Community

What is this project?

[From original proposal about project idea:](#)

“As the university’s response to COVID-19 continues to evolve, it is prudent and necessary to consider options for University Libraries employees to work entirely remotely. With that in mind, I would like to propose a new internal professional development initiative that I will refer to as the University Libraries Virtual Learning Community (ULVLC).”

University Libraries Virtual Learning Community

“I would like to draw on the significant expertise of my colleagues to plan a slate of online presentations and discussion forums in which University Libraries employees can virtually present or lead sessions. Employees could present on projects within their departments, on their research projects, on things they have learned in other professional development settings, on things they would have presented at conferences that are being canceled during this crisis, or on areas of interest that are library-related.” ([From original proposal](#))

Getting started

- Proposal to UNCG Libraries Dean Mike Crumpton (3/14/20)
- Discussion at virtual staff meeting (3/16/20)
- Interest form for presenting and participating in sessions (3/16/20)
- Virtual meetings between Sam and Jenny to start a workflow, detailed on next slide (week of 3/16-3/20/20)

Workflow

- Created a LibGuide and a Canvas (UNCG LMS, learning management system) organization
- Schedule host, pick virtual platform (virtual meeting, LMS discussion, book club, panel, other?), pick a day and time, schedule a practice session
- Shared Google Folder: includes a workflow Google Doc of email templates to send out to hosts and sign ups, sign up form with Google Forms, script for live sessions, recording files, and assessment form

Workflow

- Moderate the sessions: introduce the host, record the session, help moderate the chat, help with tech issues
- Trello board: created a template checklist and then a card for each session to help us stay organized with session
- Scheduling 1 session a day as of now, but might space them out as UNCG librarians continue to work from home
- Record the sessions and put the MP4 video file on YouTube (if applicable) where an ITS librarian employee is helping us close caption the videos

Assessment

Created a Google Form to ask some assessment questions that asks these questions:

- Which session did you attend?
- Do you like the session format? If not, would you like it longer or shorter? A different kind of format?
- Did this session meet your expectations? 1 to 5 Likert scale, 1 not at all, 5 exceeds my expectations
- How was the speaker(s) presentation style(s)? (comments, suggestions, feedback)
- Did you experience any technical difficulties during the session? If yes, what?
- Do you have any suggestions or comments about this series?

Assessment

Going well!

Do you like the session format? If not, would you like it longer or shorter? A different kind of format?

48 responses

Yes

It was good.

yes

Great!

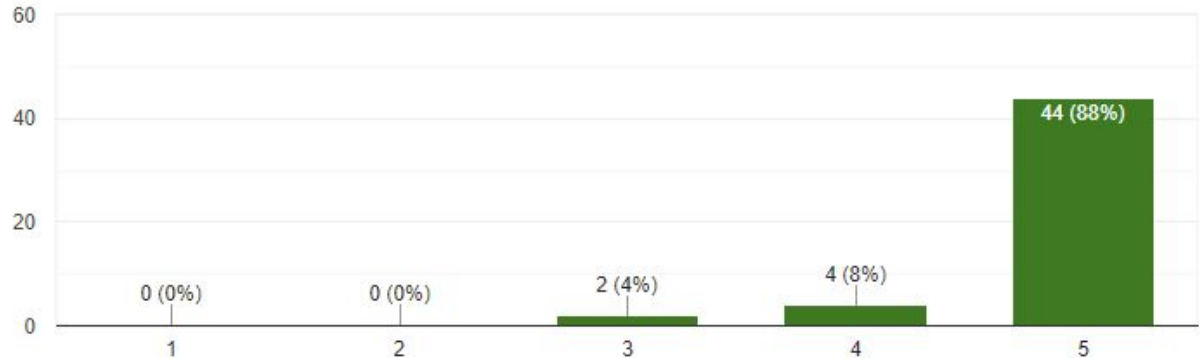
just right

It was perfect!

Really liked the discussion format. Thought it was the right length, even though we ran out of time.

Did this session meet your expectations?

50 responses



LibGuide

<http://uncg.libguides.com/ulvlc>: public Google Calendar, sign up link, archived sessions

University Libraries Virtual Learning Community: Home

[Home](#) [Archived sessions - March 2020](#) [Archived sessions - April 1-10](#)



ULVLC Public Calendar

Today ← → April 2020 Week Month Agenda

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	29 11am Visual Thinking	30 1pm Hispanic & Latin	31 11am Getting Started 1pm Bonus session:	Apr 1 10am First-Year Inst 2pm Scholarly Comr	2	3
4	5 3pm Using Census D	6 3pm Fun with APA 7	7 2pm OER at UNC	8 2pm ULVLC reading	9	10
11	12	13 2pm Hold	14	15	16	17
18						

Sign up link for all sessions!

- <http://go.uncg.edu/vlvsigup>
This sign up form will be used for all sessions that are part of the ULVLC! If you see something on our calendar that looks interesting, you can sign up here!

Got an idea?

You can read the original proposal for this initiative at go.uncg.edu/ulvlc. You can also fill out the participation/presentation interest form at <https://forms.gle/fXqq28pmsbKqI7sG9>. If you have questions or ideas, please contact Jenny Dale at jdale2@uncg.edu.

Conclusions (so far!)

- This is an ongoing project, but our current conclusion is that the learning community is active and has been well-received
- As of April 8, 2020, we have had 14 sessions (10 webinar-style presentations, 1 interactive trivia game, 1 presentation and facilitated discussion, 1 synchronous discussion, and 1 asynchronous discussion in Canvas)
- For all sessions scheduled, we have had a total of 336 sign-ups

Future plans

- We plan to continue the learning community as long as most employees continue to work remotely
- There has been interest in continuing this kind of peer professional development beyond the pandemic, so we hope to continue offering opportunities like this (in a scaled-back way) after we return to work

We'd love to hear from you!



This is an current and ongoing project, so please let us know your questions, suggestions, or comments through this ACRL DLS poster session!