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Prioritizing Library Instruction: Challenges and Opportunities Moving into the Digital Age

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Rob Morrison, & Marisa Walstrum

IACRL 2012: Adopt, Adapt, Accelerate

Why do we need to prioritize instruction?

- Technology
- Role of librarian as teacher
- Changes in higher education
- Opportunities to address issues in a way that re-shapes our future
- The NLU experience
 - demand for credit courses
 - culture shift - expanded teaching role

The shift to Online

- Role of self guided tutorials
 - Meets growing demand for instruction & frees up time for teaching higher order skills

Self guided tutorials: Challenges

- Marketing/awareness
- Learning Styles
 - Face-to-face & Online
- Technical Support
- Synchronous & Asynchronous
- Other challenges?

Self-guided tutorials: Solutions

- Collaborate with faculty
- Visual, Audio, Text
 - Jing!, LibGuides, Interactive tutorials
- Dedicated or shared staffing model that fits your library
- Blended teaching

Beyond Traditional Instruction Role

Integrated Teaching Role

- Embedded teaching
- Credit courses
- Course design expertise
- Mentoring teaching faculty

Beyond traditional instructional role: Challenges

- Workload issues - service & teaching
- Perception of librarian as teacher
- Librarian buy-in for new roles
- Other challenges?

Beyond traditional instruction role: Solutions

- Adjuncts
- Flexibility
- Blended instruction
- Participation in institutional governance & community
- Mentoring librarians

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