

May 2020

## Digitally Embedded Librarianship: Adding Library Instruction to LMS Courses

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### Recommended Citation

Freeman, Robert (2020) "Digitally Embedded Librarianship: Adding Library Instruction to LMS Courses," *South Carolina Libraries*: Vol. 4 : Iss. 1 , Article 15.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.51221/sc.scl.2020.4.1.23>

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## Digitally Embedded Librarianship: Adding Library Instruction to LMS Courses

### Abstract

Clemson University has traditionally focused on the on-campus experience and believed that every student should “get Clemson dirt on their shoes.” But the University has begun placing more emphasis on online instruction and teaching, culminating with the first E-Learning Day in the Fall of 2019. This poster highlights the efforts of a librarian focused on supporting online instruction through embedding in courses within the University’s learning management system. It offers a definition for Digitally Embedded Librarianship, best practices for getting embedded, and shares feedback from course instructors.

### Keywords

digital, embedded librarianship, learning management system, lms, elearning, canvas, online courses

## Digitally Embedded Librarianship



Embedded Librarianship became a popular term in the mid 2000s as a concept similar to embedded journalism (Drewes & Hoffman, 2010). Embedded librarianship seeks to place librarians in the space occupied by their patrons, either physically

or digitally, in order to be part of the patrons' culture and provide richer and more focused service. "Embedded librarian describes any librarian that takes an active role inside the online CMS classroom" (Becker, 2010, p. 237). I define being "digitally embedded" as being added to the LMS course with a participant role, publishing course pages with bibliographic instruction content, and actively monitoring a discussion board in the course for student questions throughout the semester.

## Importance of Online Services

Clemson University has traditionally focused on the campus experience and believed that every student should "get Clemson dirt on their shoes." But the University has begun placing more emphasis on online instruction and teaching, culminating with an E-Learning Day in the fall of 2019.



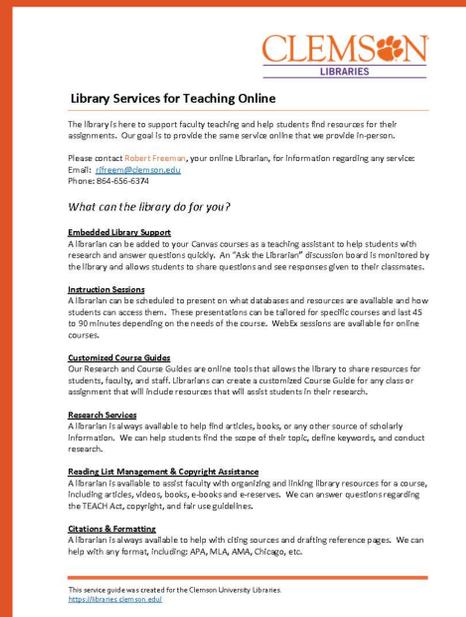
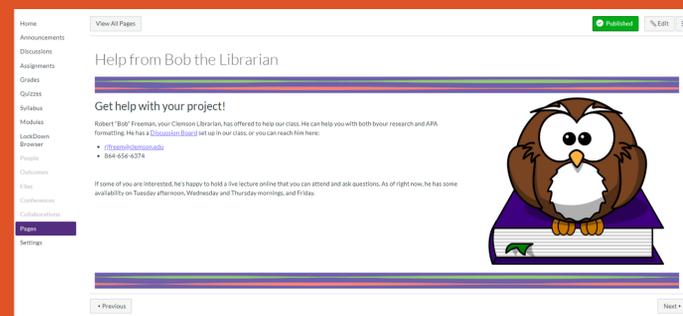
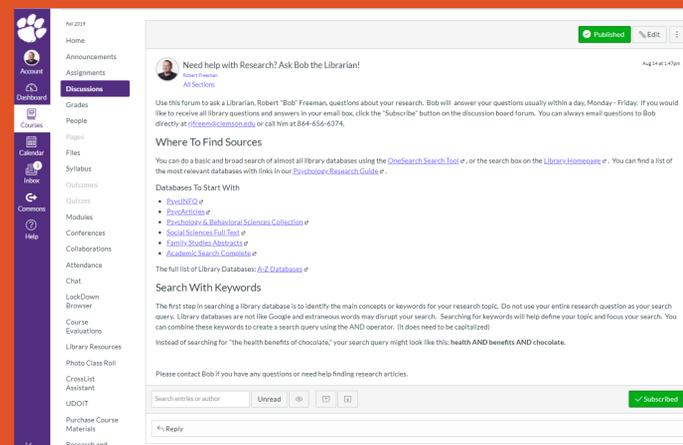
The University saw this event as an opportunity to test procedures for maintaining course continuity and teaching when physical attendance is not possible. Instructors were directed to prepare asynchronous lectures for the day and make them available to students via an eLearning platform. Online services like embedding help the Libraries support this vision for the University.

# Digitally Embedded Librarianship

## Adding Library Instruction to LMS Courses

### Tips For Getting Embedded

- Define services offered by embedded librarians and create a service menu for distribution.
- Partner with LMS administrators and designers.
- Add Library content to LMS course shells.
- Consistently advertise services to all faculty.
- Participate in faculty training opportunities and network with receptive faculty.



### Embedding in an LMS Course

1. Ask the instructor to add you to the course with an assigned Librarian role.
2. Create instruction pages and place them in the appropriate learning module.
  - The board description should have email and contact information for outside the LMS. Include basic instructions for starting research, like a short list of relevant database links.
  - Subscribe to the discussion board. Set real-time notifications for student posts.
3. Create an "Ask the Librarian" discussion board where students can post questions.
4. Post a course announcement signaling your presence when you are ready to start interacting with students.

Robert Freeman  
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## Results

September 2018 to September 2019

19 Embedded Courses

273 Reference Interactions

"Thank you so much for being so responsive this summer. You really made this class go a lot smoother than it would have been."  
Professor of Psychology

"Hi Bob! Just assume you are in there from now on. :) I love having the support. I have to double check, but I don't think I have any sections until the spring. Everything you added before- discussion board included- I will just import to the new sections once they are available. No building necessary- I'll just add you when the time comes and we will be good to go! Again, such an awesome addition to the class! I truly appreciate it!"  
Professor of Education

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- Drewes, K., & Hoffman, N. (2010). Academic embedded librarianship: An introduction. *Public Services Quarterly*, 6(2-3), 75-82. doi:10.1080/15228959.2010.498773