

CommonMind:

A collaborative innovation for
the University of Washington's
Research Commons

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Some issues raised by PIL's findings

- Students have trouble framing a good research problem (Head & Eisenberg, 2010a, p. 31)
- Professors' handouts for assignments tend to recommend a limited number of resources and rarely recommend consulting a librarian (Head & Eisenberg 2010b, p. 10)

Our innovation: the CommonMind system

A publicly visible list of projects that students are working on in the Research Commons

- People outside of the class can help groups refine research topics, introduce the group to new info resources, provide editing help, or just serve as receptive audience members.
- Active groups are displayed on the RC website, on LCD screens in the Commons and in Suzzallo Espresso Market
- Different views are available (map, calendar, simple list)

Map view



Schedule view

Orange highlighted boxes indicate groups looking for collaborators

Time:	Booth A	Booth B	Booth C	Booth D	Collaboration Corner
08:00AM					
08:30AM					
09:00AM					
09:30AM				the aquarium	
10:00AM					
10:30AM					
11:00AM	Point Rustor			Nelle's Group	
11:30AM		Developing Afg Starting Today			
12:00PM			Epic girls time		
12:30PM	Working on Spanish Assignment			GDUFS	Researchers INC
01:00PM		Jack Falk			
01:30PM					
02:00PM		Fruitbaskets	RAGECANDY.. yeah.		
02:30PM					
03:00PM	SAED				
04:00PM				C Research Grp	
04:30PM		ENGL 131 C Targeted	math125		MKTG
05:00PM	AMATH 402/502		Biochemistry/Bio		
05:30PM					
06:00PM					
06:30PM		Hirano and Jimenez		Bioc	
07:00PM					
07:30PM					
08:00PM					
08:30PM					

How it works

- Takes advantage of the existing reservation system. (It is also possible to post a group without reserving space.)
- Those reserving space are asked whether they are seeking collaborators or consultations with outsiders (fellow students, T.A.s).
- Users also have the option of requesting a research consultation with a librarian, when available.

Existing RC reservation form

Add Entry

Group Name:

Full Description:
(Number of people, Group Name, etc)

Date: 24 Feb 2012

Time: 8 : 30 AM PM

Duration: 1 hours (3 hrs max)

Rooms: Use Control-Click to select more than one room
Media:scape
Red A
Red B
Red Plasma Wall

Additional info section

Question 1.
Would you like to make this a public group that allows new members to join or share their knowledge?
Required.
 Yes
 No

Question 2.
Required.

American Indian Studies
Anthropology
Applied Mathematics
Art
Hold control key (apple key for Mac) to select multiple answers.

Question 3.
What specific topics or questions are you working on or discussing?
Required.

Question 4.
Type of collaborators sought:
Required.

Others struggling to understand this topic
Editing & proofreading help
Observers/audience members
Hold control key (apple key for Mac) to select multiple answers.

Question 5.
Would you be interested in a visit from a librarian for research assistance on this topic, if available?
Required.
 Yes
 No

(Questions 2-5 are only displayed if the answer to Q1 is "Yes.")

Sources

1. Head, A. J. and Eisenberg, M.B. (2010a). Truth be told : How college students evaluate and use information in the digital age. □ *Project Information Literacy Progress Report*.
2. Head, A. J. and Eisenberg, M.B. (2010b). Assigning inquiry: How handouts for research assignments guide today's college students. □ *Project Information Literacy Progress Report*.