Bunny Slippers at the Academic Library: More Community, More Learning?

Presented at the 2017 Alberta Library Conference in Jasper, AB
Who Are We?

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- Julia Wells, User Engagement and Student Success Librarian
- Jenna Goddard, Writing Centre Coordinator and Lecturer (Student Success)
Who Are You?

…and what motivates you to write?
What is *Long Night Against Procrastination*?

- Overnight event held at the Library
- Peer support available
- Writing, research, and wellness support
- Workshops, food, and coffee
Overview

1. History, Rationale, & Goals
2. Logistics
3. Assessment, Evidence, & Reporting
4. Moving Forward & Discussion
1. History, Rationale, & Goals
History of LNAP

• Began in Germany in 2010
• Now an international event
• First ever Canada-wide event was November 2014
• Original impetus was to avoid procrastination, build a community of writers, and find the joy in writing
Institutional Rationale

• In-line with TRU’s Strategic Priorities 2014-2019
  • Student Success
  • Intercultural understanding
  • Research capacity

• Enhance first year students’ experiences
  • Opportunity to learn with peers in a supportive environment
  • Engage and learn from TRU’s support services
Goals: Campus Partners

Student Services
• Create connections with academic supports

Library
• Reduce library anxiety and procrastination

Writing Centre
• Create a community of writers and improve upon the experience of writing papers

Faculty
• Inspire social learning and encourage time management
Event Goals

- Avoid procrastination
- Build campus community
- Encourage engagement with academic supports
Students’ Goals: Completing assignments (and having fun!)

Long Night Respondent Goals

- To get some reading or studying done
- To get an early start on my paper(s)
- To complete one or more assignments
- To see if I could make it to the Survivors' Breakfast
- To have fun
- To connect with others on campus
- To learn new study/research/writing strategies
- To improve my research
- To improve my writing

% of Respondents

Mar-17
Mar-16
Mar-15

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100
2. Logistics
Event logistics

- 200 – 300 students at each of 5 events
- We have names & email addresses for those who register and for those who attend
- 40-100 students make it to the 6am Survivors’ Breakfast
- Follow-up survey sent to all attendees the week after:
  - Fluid Surveys
  - Approximately a 25% response rate
  - Are we getting feedback from those who were more engaged?
Promotion

- Posters/banner
- Social media
- Word of mouth (class visits, house 5)
- Email (Writing Centre tutees, faculty)
- “walking billboard”
Staffing
(let’s get creative!)

- Library Staff
  - All hands on deck (set-up, reference, circulation, making coffee, making popcorn, cleaning, etc.)
- Writing Centre tutors
  - Set-up, tutoring
- Volunteers
- Janitorial/Security
  - Games table, social media, clean-up
Food and Supplies

- Snacks (veggie platters, granola bars, cookies, popcorn)
- Pizza
- Survivors’ breakfast (breakfast sandwiches, fruit platters, oranges)
- Plates, cups, napkins, stir sticks, spoons, gloves
- Budget
Logistical Challenges

• Space/space limitations (age of building, lights, heat, breakers...)
• Planning (noise, space, tables/chairs)
• Snacks
• Registration process (100/200/300; walk-ins, technology malfunctions)
• Evolving library staffing
3. Assessment, Evidence, & Reporting
Did we connect with first year students?

Year of Study of LNAP Attendees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of Academic Program</th>
<th>Year of Study of LNAP Attendees</th>
<th>% of Respondents</th>
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<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar-16</td>
<td>35</td>
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<td>Mar-17</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mar-16</td>
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<td>5th Year</td>
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<td>Mar-17</td>
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Did students feel they met their own goals?

Did Students Meet Their LNAP Goals?

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>44</td>
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<td>Some</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
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Are we encouraging procrastination?

If you worked on a paper at LNAP, when was it due?

- 2 weeks + after LNAP
- 1 week after LNAP
- 4-6 days after LNAP
- 2-3 days after LNAP
- The day after LNAP
Did we create a community of writers?

“This event did an important job of bringing people together. I could see how people were pleasantly surprised to see their long lost friends; they greeted each other with smiles, cheered their peers throughout the night, and most importantly, got a lot of work done.”
“It was my first year going and 100% worth it.”
“I had fun with friends and still managed to get over 1000 words of a research essay done. Great setting”
“I went to have a supportive environment to start, finish, and get ahead on my assignments and papers for the semester and I finished almost everything!”
“The fun and unique aspect of the event is that it goes all night...I and many of my friends wouldn’t even bother going if it ended at 2 am; may as well stay home.”
“I started writing my opinion paper 2 weeks before due and got an A!”
4. Changes, Moving Forward & Discussion
“LNAP is a unique event in that it accommodates the needs of students. What I mean by this, is that rather than chastising students for un-conventional study habits, it recognizes the difficulties of balancing demanding, multi-faceted schedules. It works within this narrative, rather than against it, to facilitate success. The overwhelming turnout illustrates the need for more events that realize the realities of being a student in the twenty-first century.”

- Casey Helgason, Writing Centre Tutor and LNAP attendee
BUT you can’t please everyone…

• “It should be monthly, and definitely again during exams”
• “Have one more [the] week before final exams”
• “I was going to finish like 3 assignments and I just complete 1.”
• “I got distracted”
• “I procrastinated.” Ironic, I know.
• “Vegan options”
• “Make the ‘quiet’ area actually quiet”
• “MORE COFFEE”
Changes

• Structure/content of workshops
• Science writing workshop
• Messaging of event
• Safe Walk
• Games table
Moving Forward and Discussion

• Workshops
  • Writing from different disciplines
  • Support for graduate students
  • Study skills
  • Holistic wellness: emotional, financial, etc.

• Pre-recorded workshops
• Thoughts? Suggestions? Questions?
Selected Bibliography


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Thank-you! For further information, please refer to: http://libguides.tru.ca/Lnap

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