

The Distance Librarian: Figuring Out the Virtual, Co-Taught, One-Shot ... in a Pinch, from Afar

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In many cases, remote library instruction is offered to geographically dispersed, or distance, students by a librarian who is on-site in the library or elsewhere on campus. But what happens when the librarian is off-site and the students are in the library? A telecommuting collection-development librarian—a state away—and a campus-based instruction librarian endeavored to find out.

Working with a willing professor and technology on hand, a 21st-century instruction session—focused on location and retrieval of primary sources—was created, using a combination of free and fee-based applications and equipment. Users' information learning needs were met, the existing level of service was maintained and, in the process, the institution's instruction horizons were expanded.