Collaborations:
Information and Learning Liaisons at Hamilton College

For the past 3 years, librarians and technology professionals at Hamilton College have been "collaborating", "cooperating", and "liaising" to provide improved, coordinated instructional support to the faculty. We will describe some of the hurdles and triumphs we have experienced as we learn about each other and grew our services in tandem. Through hearing about our experience of working together in the HILLgroup (Hamilton Information & Learning Liaisons group), attendees will gain understanding of how the goals and methods of IT and library professionals can differ or coincide, and how discussion and coordination can lead to better services to users across campus.

Julia Schult
Reference Librarian (Library)
jschult@hamilton.edu

Krista Siniscaico
Multimedia Assistant (ITS)
ksinisca@hamilton.edu

Jesse Thomas
Multimedia Specialist (ITS)
jthomas@hamilton.edu

http://www.hamilton.edu/academics/hillgroup/cil.html
1997 or so: Need for multimedia support starts to manifest
- The Graphic Artist (from the Library) works with a faculty member on “Celluloid Savior” web project – Library gets a streaming server
- Mellon Foundation gives money for Media 100 equipment in the Language Labs.

2000-2001: ITS starts trying to support multimedia for coursework:
- ITS borrows a Media 100 system from the Language Lab for certain courses
- Dave & Randy start talking about creating a joint multimedia support lab

Summer 2001: Internship for Digital Multimedia Lab (name unsettled) created
- Jointly funded by ITS and Library (including some money from the Graphic Artist’s position when she left the Library)
- Jesse hired, will continue work with a web team on campus as well as working out proposed needs for Digital Multimedia Lab
- Multimedia editing equipment is purchased with ITS money and set up for faculty use & experimentation in a cubicle-style office on the 3rd floor of the Library

1998-2000: Librarians & some ITS people meet ad hoc to communicate about who offers what services

Fall 2000: Core group of what became HILL group starts meeting:
- Reference Librarians and Instructional Technology Team
- Dave & Randy articulate some visions for the group

January 2001: Janet starts new position and is directed to facilitate the group’s progress

Spring semester 2001:
- Name is chosen – Hamilton Information & Learning Liaisons group or HILL group
- Randy & Dave attend a meeting and stress their commitment to this collaboration working

http://www.hamilton.edu/college/its/mpc

http://www.hamilton.edu/academics/hillgroup
HILLgroup History Timeline

Fall 2001

- Concept statement drafted, committee formed and planning begins for Digital Media Center (discussions on the facility’s name continue)

Spring 2002

- Multimedia Presentation Center developments:
  - Committee creates job description and funding is obtained for permanent Multimedia Specialist position.
  - Jesse (as the digital multimedia intern) made a member of the HILLgroup because of his involvement with the course support teams

Summer 2002

- Multimedia Presentation Center (MPC) springs into action:
  - Jesse hired as permanent Multimedia Specialist
  - MPC lab is created in the “All Night Reading Room” space on the first floor of the library; all wiring, purchasing of furniture, and equipment setup is done in 6 weeks
  - MPC lab opens to students during the first week of classes, Fall 2002

Fall 2001: HILLgroup defining itself more by its involvement with faculty support

- Brown Bag meetings with faculty attempt to elicit ideas for high-tech teaching
- Mellon Grant developed involving Janet (ITS), Kristin (Library), a student ’02, and a faculty member (English Department) to develop the Jane Austen film course
- Various HILLgroup teams start working with faculty who are developing pilot Sophomore Seminars pursuant to the new Curricular Initiative

Spring 2002: HILLgroup starts sponsoring speakers & workshops

- Janet coordinates an invited speaker series starting February 2002; this uses the Remote Collaboration Facility (videoconferencing) for some of the sessions.
- HILLgroup and the Oral Communication Center co-sponsor a highly successful 2-day faculty workshop on Sophomore Seminars; it includes an invited speaker on multidisciplinary cooperative teaching, professors who taught pilot courses, some multimedia examples from the pilot courses, and ITS, the Library, the Oral Communication Center, and the Writing Center gave faculty an overview of their course support services.

May-July 2002: Information Commons

- May-June 2002: Two joint Library and ITS retreats with facilitator held to discuss the Information Commons
- Statement of purpose for the Information Commons drafted
Fall 2002 – Spring 2003: MPC scrambles to meet demands of students & faculty
• In its first semester, the MPC supported 113 video projects, 43 large format poster projects and 33 color laser poster projects.
• Multimedia Assistant position created, Krista hired
• Policies & procedures for use of equipment worked out
• Student Technology Consultants (STCs) training goes through several iterations

Spring 2003: Susan, Director of Oral Communication Center, formally added to HILLgroup

Fall 2002 – Spring 2003: Various presentations, workshops & discussions are held for faculty
• Some invited speakers, but mostly internal events
• Discussion series not well attended

Fall 2002 - Spring 2003: IC hiatus
– No action for several months.

April 2003 – Summer 2003: Information Commons
• Steering Committee formed for Information Commons,
• ITS/Librarian meetings on the subject resume May
• 3 subcommittees formed: Extended Referral, Joint Service Point, & Classroom reservations
October 2003: Latest computer lab student worker training plan fully incorporates multimedia.

Fall 2003: HILLgroup obtains time block in New Faculty Orientation to describe support services of Library, ITS, and Oral Communications Center.

Fall 2003: Much soul searching regarding what to offer as events to meet Faculty needs.

Fall 2003: Information Commons
- Extended Referral form implemented
- Classroom reservations implemented for group study in the evenings
- Steering Committee is charged with implementing a pilot joint service point during the 2003-2004 academic year.

December 2003: Pilot Project Proposal for IC Joint Service Point:
- 4 implementation committees formed to implement pilot during Spring 2004:
  - Assessment
  - Furniture/Connections
  - Systems
  - Publicity

January 2004: Open Hour informal minimal prep workshops offered to faculty/administrators over the break, some success.