

Creating Partnerships to Enhance Information Literacy Skills of the Multicultural Community

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Background

NIU Libraries have repeatedly offered a series of 90-minute interconnected family literacy workshops for DeKalb Latino families with children aged birth to five.



Goals

Overarching goals:

- Enhancing participants' familiarity with the academic community and the academic library's services and collections;
- Explaining the general importance of reading to young children and demonstrating effective techniques.

Information literacy goals:

- Enhancing participants' skills for locating, evaluating, and using effectively the print resources of the academic library:
 - Online catalog system searching;
 - Selection of appropriate results;
 - Ability to physically locate selected items;
 - Checkout procedures.



Rationale for Partnerships

- Utilizing existing relationships developed by campus and community entities ("symbiosis").
- Decreasing potential lack of trust by targeted community members.



Partnerships: Main Areas of Benefit

- Advertisement;
- Recruitment;
- Instructional Support;
- Retention.





Tips for Creating and Maintaining Partnerships

- Survey community for units serving populations of similar backgrounds:
 - Interest in cooperation;
 - Similar or complementary goals;
 - Potential for cost/resource sharing;
 - Recommendation(s) for additional organizations to partner with.
- Clearly outline responsibilities.
- Make sure everyone follows through.
- Acknowledge participation on promotional materials.
- Share assessment results with all partners.



Questions? Email me at khailova@niu.edu.