

# Report on Libraries Outreach Activity: Transfer Student Social Fall 2017

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## Transfer Student Social | Tuesday, September 26, 2017 | 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Meet fellow transfer students and departmental subject librarians and enjoy refreshments in Odegaard Library. Stick around after the Undergraduate Research for Community College Transfer Students event to learn about the ways in which the UW Libraries can support your research and studies.

### Goals and Outcomes

1. Create a welcoming library event for new transfer students.
2. Connect transfer students with the subject librarians for their intended majors.
3. Inform transfer students of the Libraries' resources and services, especially subject librarians and research guides.

### Partners

Office of First Year Programs (FYP)

Undergraduate Research Program (URP)

### Resources

#### Funding

Funds spent on refreshments for 60-75 attendees.

#### Planning Committee

Amanda Hornby, Linda Whang, Emilie Vrbancic

#### Event Staff

3 Odegaard Librarians, 1 Odegaard Research and Learning Services GA, 1 Transfer Ambassador, UW Libraries subject librarians (>10)

### Activity Overview

The Transfer Student Social is an informal event where new transfer students can meet and socialize with librarians and with other new transfer students. The event was catered and held in Odegaard 220 immediately following the Undergraduate Research Program's "Undergraduate Research for Community College Transfer Students" event which was held from 2:30-4:00 pm in the same room. Students who attended the URP event were encouraged to stay for the Social. This year, we displayed posters from the Undergraduate Research

Symposium around the room so students could get an idea of what undergraduate research looks like. Our assessment methods included headcounts, observations during the event, surveys, and staff reflection after the event.

Over 40 students attended the Social-- at least 30 students stayed after the URP event and 17 came just for the Social.

Students were observed having one-on-one conversations with librarians and speaking with other students, asking questions, and sharing information. Librarians were observed approaching students, starting conversations (“What is your major?” “Where did you transfer from?”), introducing students to their subject librarians, answering questions, and connecting students to specific resources in the libraries or on campus. Some of the topics that came up include library research guides, reference desk hours, chat reference, different kinds of spaces on campus, the writing center, balancing research with classes, jobs, and family, how to get to campus and get around Seattle, how to dress for school, what to bring to class, past schools and work experiences, where students are from and what they plan to study. The atmosphere was warm and welcoming and students really enjoyed and appreciated the food. One group of students stayed late chatting with an Odegaard librarian and with each other. As they left, they exchanged contact information with each other so they could stay in touch. Students were also observed reading the posters and being surprised that they were created by undergraduates.

Attendees were asked to fill out a short survey before they left. Nineteen surveys were completed. 84% of respondents said they spoke with a librarian at the event, 95% said they learned about library resources or services, 84% said they were likely use the library or contact a librarian after the event, and 95% would recommend the event to other new transfer students. We also received comments such as, “Thank you for your time. Very enjoyable and informative,” “Cool stuff! Librarians are neither intimidating or boring,” “Fun event! **Meeting librarians was much more useful than I thought it would be.**”

In our post-event reflection meeting, it was noted that this event is High Impact/Medium Effort (funding, staff time, subject librarian time, assessment). The event is high impact for the students who attend, but low impact in terms of the percentage of transfer students we reach.



Students attending the URP panel presentation



Odegaard Librarian chatting with students at the Transfer Student Social

## Conclusions

Based on our assessment data, the goals for the Transfer Student Social were met. Our observations and survey results indicate that students became informed of library services and resources, met other students who share their interests, learned about research opportunities and how to present their research, learned who the librarian for their department is and that librarians are here to help them, and were beginning to make connections and find community. The event was high impact with medium staff effort and moderate financial costs.

## Recommendations & Resources Requested

We recommend holding the Transfer Student Social during Dawg Daze 2018 and partnering with URP to schedule the Social immediately preceding or following their Undergraduate Research for Community College Transfer Students event, holding both events in Odegaard Room 220, and co-listing the two events in the Dawg Daze schedule.

- Continue to partner with Undergraduate Research Program on the event.
- Request funding from UW Libraries for refreshments
- Recommend same day/time (early in the week before classes start - Monday or Tuesday, mid-afternoon)
- Recommend additional survey questions - What was the most important thing you learned?
- Better survey exit strategy! Have GAs make sure people are filling out survey when they exit.

## Previous Outreach Reports

- [Report on Libraries Outreach Activity: Library Tours for Transfer Students F2016](#)