

# Professional Development for IL Practitioners:

## A Case Study in tapping into Institutional Expertise

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# Goals

1. Provide background & context for project
2. Share planning principles & program
3. Present needs assessment results
4. Highlight participant feedback
5. Identify challenges & next steps
6. Facilitate reflection on IL practice & PD



UNIVERSITY OF  
**ALBERTA**

**University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada**

- **5 campuses**
- **18 faculties and schools**
  - 200 undergraduate programs
  - 170 graduate programs
- **38,700 students**
  - 31,100 undergraduates
  - 7,600 graduate students
- **~ 55 Librarians**

In 2015/2016 UofA librarians taught over **450 classes** to over **17,000 participants** in courses at all levels.

# Background & Context

- UAL Teaching & Learning Committee
  - Coordinates relevant training and pd opportunities to enhance instruction
- UAL Teaching Library
  - We teach our user and professional communities
- UAlberta Institutional Strategic Plan
  - Inspire, model, and support excellence in teaching and learning

INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN

**BUILD**EXPERIENCE  
**EXCELE**NGAGE**SUSTAIN**



# Background & Context

## Partnership with UAlberta Centre for Teaching & Learning

### Teaching Development

CTL helps instructors with all aspects of their teaching development through a variety of programming including consultations, workshops, courses, and online resources.

#### CTL Consultations

The staff at the Centre for Teaching and Learning would be happy to meet with you to discuss aspects related to teaching and learning at the University of Alberta.

For more information on our staff members and their expertise, please click [here](#).

For more information on consultations offered by CTL staff, please visit our [consultations page](#).

#### Peer Consultations

The Peer Consultation Program provides instructors with the opportunity to work with a peer who is trained in classroom observation and techniques for soliciting student feedback in order to refine and/or test new ways of teaching that support and enhance learning.

[Learn more](#)

#### CTL Workshops and Courses

Throughout the year, CTL staff provide workshops and courses on a variety of teaching-related topics.

[Learn more](#)

#### New Professor Teaching Orientation

This orientation aims to provide participants information about teaching at the University of Alberta and the supports available, a selection of small group sessions to discuss key teaching issues, and an opportunity to make connections across the institution.

[Learn more](#)

# Principles & Planning

- Principles
  - Customized, cohort-based
  - Focus on theory, application to practice, model behaviour
  - Driven by IL context and framework
  - Responsive to PD needs
- Step 1: Needs assessment





# Sessions Offered

- Using Backwards Design in Instruction
- Using Formative Feedback in Instruction Sessions
- Maximizing "One Shot" Instruction Sessions
- Refresher session (combined session of 3 above)
- Active Learning Bootcamp
- Indigenizing Instruction (Facilitated by Carla)
- Peer-editing of instruction sessions



# General Feedback

I expected to get some hands-on examples and to learn about the theory behind why we should do things, such as Backwards Design. And my expectations were met!

Practical suggestions and good modelling on behalf of Carla in using the strategies she mentioned.

I liked Carla's emphasis on the informal and formal -- that made it less intimidating

All the examples were great! It was nice to see them in practice. Practicing AL in an AL session. What a concept!



## **Janice Kung** Public Services Librarian

**How many years have you been involved with teaching in a library setting?**

2.5 years

**Have you had any formal training in teaching? (SLIS classes, Education degree, etc.)?**

SLIS classes, teaching English overseas (we received intensive one-week training prior to teaching)

**How have the sessions impacted your teaching?**

They provide great examples to apply in the classroom such as active learning activities!

**Has it allowed for collaboration with colleagues outside your unit library?**

Yes! I collaborated with Jessica Thorlakson on a poster about Kahoot for the Festival of Teaching & Learning.

**Do you feel confident and/or effective in the classroom as a result of these sessions?**

Yes, I'm really grateful for the opportunity to come together with colleagues to learn new tools and strategies to apply in my own library instruction.



## Tatiana Usova Unit Head

**How many years have you been involved with teaching in a library setting?**

10 years

**Have you had any formal training in teaching? (SLIS classes, Education degree, etc.)?**

Yes, Education degree

**How have the sessions impacted your teaching?** Helped me to recall some fundamental concepts of teaching, provided with new knowledge of backward design and offered some new techniques of active learning

**Do you feel confident and/or effective in the classroom as a result of these sessions?**

Yes

# Challenges & Next Steps



# Exit Slips/Minute Papers

Example:

1. One new thing you learned
2. One thing you wish we had covered
3. One thing you are still unclear about

**Before you go...**

- 1. What skills would you like to develop and where could you get help?**
- 2. What's one step you could take to advance IL PD at your institution?**





# QUESTIONS?

## Thank-you for your participation!

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