FROM AMAZING RACE TO ESCAPE ROOM

Leslie Starasta
Lincoln Christian University
Jessie C. Eury Library New Student Library Event
NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

• Needed a new interesting and interactive resource for the Library section of New Student Orientation.
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

• Students will recognize the library as a welcoming place to study and find materials.

• Students will recognize library staff members as welcoming and helpful.

• Students will be aware of the wide variety of services and collections provided by the library.
AMAZING RACE: 2015
AMAZING RACE: 2015

• Each world section featured the story of LCU alumni either from or now serving in that part of the world

• Used groups of 3 students and could accommodate 75 per hour
STUDENTS NEEDED TO

• Find a book in the catalog and then on the shelf
• Find a Media item in the catalog and on the shelf
• Find an article in a database
• Find and use a reference book
• Use our printer/copier
• Answer questions about how to check out a book
LESSONS LEARNED

• Found groups of 2 students worked better than 3

• Expanded to 3 sets of questions for each world section the next year
CONTINUOUS UPDATES

Continually update the question sets
2020 TRANSITION TO PRIMO!

- Testing our existing clue sets in PRIMO

- We were planning what new videos and instructional materials were needed

- Planning to update links in the existing Libguide
PANDEMIC HITS!

https://pixabay.com/vectors/social-distancing-distance-icon-5132443/

REQUIREMENTS

• Meet our Library Orientation Objectives

• Meet the Pandemic Protocols in place by our campus

• Able to be completed by an individual in less than one hour
ESCAPE ROOM?

• “An escape room is an immersive 60-minute real-life adventure game.”

• “That mission might be actually escaping something like a prison cell. In other cases, the “escape” is completing your mission which may be finding lost gold, launching a martian spacecraft or completing an art heist. A successful escape will require you to uncover hidden clues, crack codes and solve challenging puzzles.”

• https://theescapegame.com/blog/what-is-an-escape-room/
ESCAPE ROOMS?

• Began reading and seeing information about virtual or digital Escape Rooms
CONCERNS

• Many examples were geared to a younger audience

• Some examples used technology and resources we did not have

• Time needed to create and test an escape room— in midst of ILS change, total website redesign, and introducing a new chat service!
ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

- How to re-create questions that used print sources
- No opportunity to explore the physical library
- No opportunity to personally interact with library staff
BUT

• Knew our existing content could be transitioned to an escape room format
• Many examples used Google Forms as their basis
• Obtained buy-in from our VP of Student Development who is in charge of orientation
Library Technology
REPORTS
Expert Guides to Library Systems and Services

How to Create Free Digital Breakouts for Libraries

Ellyssa Kroski
SAME THEME--NEW STORYBOARD

• Selected one of our previous clue sets

• Reimagined the story to fit the Escape Room concept of having a mission to complete
SAME THEME--NEW STORYBOARD

• Even with an existing structure, new story required substantial changes

• Amazing Race now became Ticket to Discovery!
You have been asked by President McCormick, as an ambassador of LCU, to visit alumni Luciano and Andrea Rodrigues and their family in Guinea-Bissau and bring back a report of how God is working among our brothers and sisters there. Of course, you give Dr. McCormick immediate confirmation of your support and tell him you are eager to help in whatever way you can. As soon as the words are out of your mouth you realize that there are a few obstacles that you have to overcome before you can go--the first one being finding where in the world (literally) Guinea-Bissau is!!

First, find out information about Guinea-Bissau, then collect the following items for your trip:
- Passport
- Suitcase
- Plane ticket
- Bible
- Gift
LESSONS LEARNED

• Found that Google Forms does not embed URLs

You will need to access:
Jessie C. Eury Library website: https://lincolnchristian.edu/library

LCU DISCOVERY: https://libguides.lincolnchristian.edu/LCUDISCOVERY

• Needed to use re-directs to provide multiple opportunities for correct answers.
LESSONS LEARNED

• Even if you know Google forms; plan for it to take longer

• Google Forms requires EXACT answers so we included LOTS of hints.
TEST, TEST, AND TEST AGAIN!

• Built in Testers

• Student Workers

• Vice President of Student Development
USE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO EDUCATE

The Quest

The first thing you see when you enter the library is a big counter with friendly looking people behind it. You immediately know you’re in the right place for help! But there are several people behind the counter who can help you. Which one should you ask for initial help?

Nancy Olson
Director of Library Services

Leslie Starasta
Information Services Librarian

Yu Yamada
Library Student Worker
EVEN “WRONG” ANSWERS USED TO SHARE ABOUT LIBRARY RESOURCES AND SERVICES.
EMBEDDED SCANS TO RECREATE USE OF PRINT SOURCES
INCLUDED LOTS OF PICTURES!
USED QUESTIONS TO “COACH” SEARCHING

The Quest

Once you’re in LCU DISCOVERY you decide to do a search to see what you can learn about the country to which you’re traveling. You enter Guinea-Bissau in the search bar and come up with 25 resources. Good grief—you don’t have all day. You decide to narrow your search and refine your results. You notice that on the left sidebar under "Availability" there is a line that reads "Held by Library." You click on that and voilá! Just from looking at the title of the resource, you now know where Guinea-Bissau is.

At the link to LCU DISCOVERY below, enter the search term Guinea-Bissau.
https://libguides.lincolnhumanitarians.edu/LCUDISCOVERY
LINKED TO VIDEOS TO DEMONSTRATE SERVICES

Oh, I can chat!
ASSESSMENT

• Having a previous structure and existing question sets made the transition easier

• All new traditional students participated
ASSESSMENT

- All new traditional students participated

- Lacked the in-person connections from our usual event

- Some students did report having some difficulty with questions. In-person events allow the option of interacting with students at the point of need.
FUTURE

• Preparing for an in-person event for Orientation 2021

• Good to have fall back for those who miss or for spring starts

• Escape room concept could be used in variety of other scenarios
- https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1MibWPeUYVo4_Dx6RJ3b7QHV6Sj7jm4RDatBlFi_34aQ/edit
- https://forms.gle/xDg4NEFvbgINzaAg6
- lstarasta@lincolnchristian.edu

Libguides.lincolnchristian.edu