Creating Partnerships to Enhance Information Literacy Skills of the Multicultural Communiversity

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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:
  o Online catalog system searching;
  o Selection of appropriate results;
  o Ability to physically locate selected items;
  o 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 communiversity 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.