Near, Far, Wherever You Are:

Adapting programming in the era of covid

Presented by Jennifer Hicks & Jessie Long- Miami University Middletown
Background

Regular programming

- Monthly during the Fall and Spring
  - National Parks Talks
  - TEC Tuesdays
- One off sessions
  - Guest speakers, including author and paranormal researcher James A. Willis
  - Middletown Maker Faire

A book on makerspace projects and programming

- Published in July 2020, a great time to publish a book on programming
March 16, 2020 Campus closed

Initial thoughts, how do we ensure students, faculty, and staff have access to library resources?

Secondary thoughts, how do we continue with planned programming?

Further thoughts, what are we missing?
Covid Maker Survey

- IRB approval
- Surveys sent to listservs as well as Chapter authors from our makerspace book
- Survey asked- What people were making, where they were making, why people were making, and how they were making.
- Makers were very responsive to expressed needs
- Big burst of action at start of pandemic, decreasing at point of 2021 survey, with more comments about lack of patrons or lack of access to making tech
What did they make?

2020 responses (top 7)
28 - Masks
19 - Face shields
17 - Mask add-ons (ear savers, etc.)
12 - Arts and crafts
5 - Sewing (not clothing or masks)
5 - Clothing
5 - 3D printing (not shields/masks)

2021 responses (top 7)
12 - Clothing
11 - Repair items/replacement parts
11 - Masks
9 - 3D printing (not shields/masks)
7 - Jewelry
6 - Face shields
5 - Sewing (not clothing or masks)

Full Results: https://tinyurl.com/MAKER-SURVEY-GHL2021
Early Adaptations - Initial steps

Step 1: Take your time

Step 2: Evaluate what can be adapted and what can be put on hold

Step 3: Dive in
Early Adaptations - everything online

Campus opened again in July/August 2020

Limits still in place for in person meetings

- 6 feet of distance
- No big groups

Majority of classes still online

Alterations in services
Staying Connected - Inventing a new character

Gardner-Harvey Library - Staying Healthy while Staying Connected

Theo-saurus Tutorials
TEC Tuesday Videos - Pre-recorded Workshops

Presented by
Gardner-Harvey Library TEC Lab
TEC Tuesdays (ONLINE)

- Pre-recorded short videos (>5min)
- Packaged materials available for pick-up
- Projects chosen with simple supplies/tools
- We weren’t the only ones adapting
- Why recreate the wheel? Lesson learned
Early Adaptations - Results

Online TEC lab workshops - not well watched

National Park Talks online - core group from 40 participants to 6 on average

Book Discussions online - higher participation than prior in person discussions

Time to change direction
Growth, newer ideas

Multi stage events - Human Library

- Recruit “books”
- Set up in person or Zoom sessions to interview the books
- Post videos on YouTube channel
- Set up a Zoom Human Library visit
  - Use Zoom meeting rooms to set up discussions, change groups at regular intervals
Growth, newer ideas

Hybrid presenting

- National Park Talks - Presenter on Zoom, 20 attendees in library, plus a few staying online
- Book Discussions - base group meeting in person, a few remaining online, back to pre covid numbers

Future Plans

- Between Two Derns- Use One-Button Studio to film segments with professors/staff and add to Youtube (talk show style)
- Video loops with extended availability in the library
Obstacles

Staffing shortages

Zoom burnout (sorry)

Working within university mandates
  ● Masks for all
  ● 3 ft spacing
  ● No food!!!

Instructors/presenters not wanting to be on campus
Return to “normal”?

Are people ready to be on site?
Presenters on campus
Marketing changes?
What do we want to keep?
Sometimes you have to let go...
Tips

Know your audience
What do they want? online/in person

Sometimes things just don’t work, it is okay to adapt or even end programs

Work with existing groups or marketing teams

➔ Ex: Passport to Programming
https://miamioh.edu/regionals/arts-culture/passport/

When patrons show up to your library programming
How have you tackled programming during the pandemic?

We would love to hear your stories!

New vs. Old

Adapted vs. Paused

Benefits vs. Drawbacks

Example of other libraries: https://libraries.vermont.gov/covid19/virtualprogram_adult
Questions?

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Gardner-Harvey Library YouTube Channel
https://tinyurl.com/GHLYouTube