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# Teaching Public Administration in an Age of Austerity: Librarians and Hybrid Instruction

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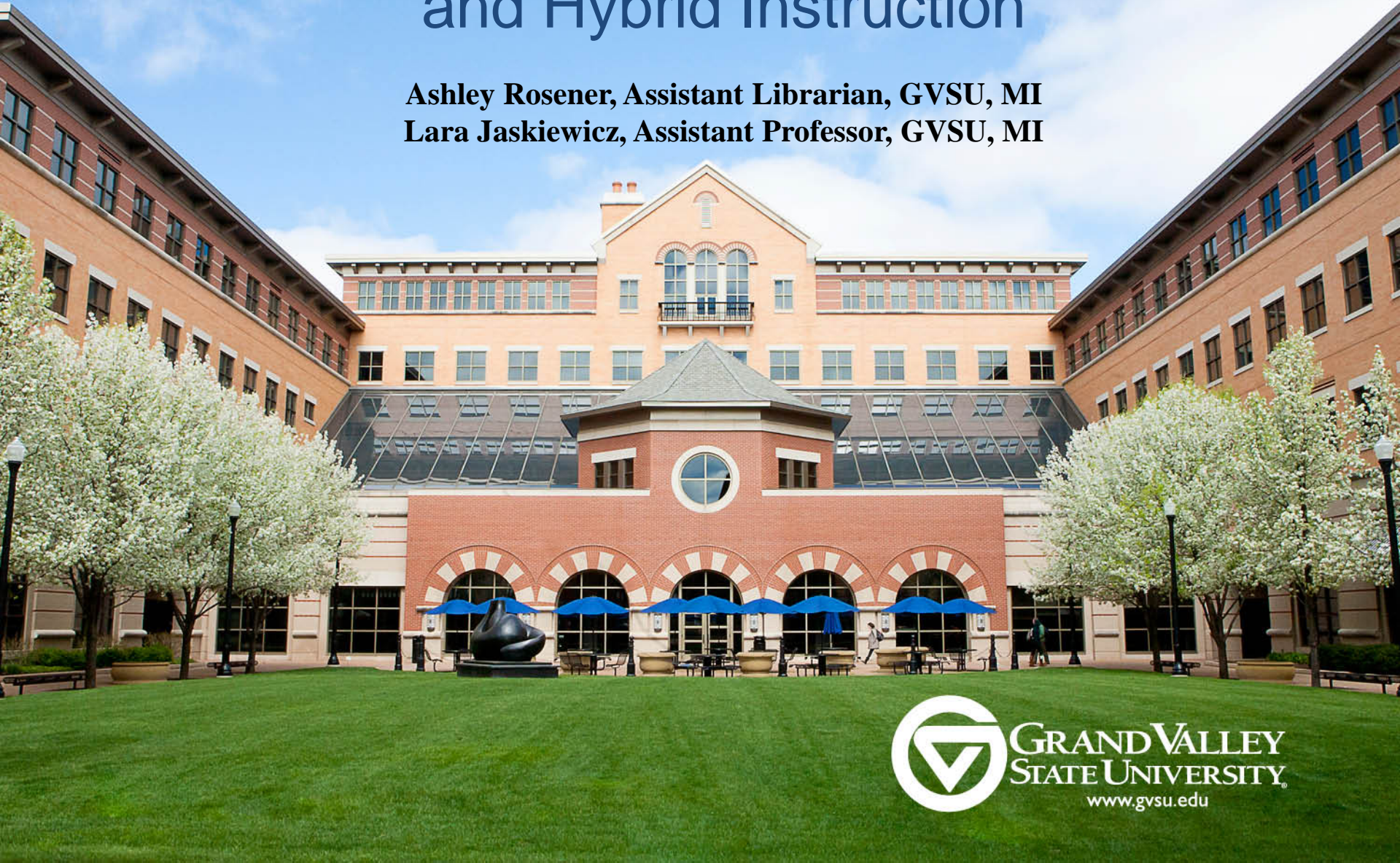
# Acknowledgements

- GVSU faculty
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- GVSU students
- TPA/JUC conveners

# About Grand Valley State

- Nearly 25,000 students from all Michigan counties, dozens of other states, and many foreign countries

- 81 undergraduate and 32 graduate degree programs

- Campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids, and Holland, and regional centers in Muskegon and Traverse City



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# Fiscally Conservative Culture

- Started because of private-public partnerships
- Focus on preparing students for jobs and the real world
- Supported heavily by local philanthropy
- Receives the lowest state appropriations per student among all other Michigan public universities

# Steelcase Library: Traditional

# "Cutting libraries in a recession is like cutting hospitals in a plague."

*Eleanor Crumblehulme*

Photo Credit: SHW James Haefner

# Mary Idema Pew Library Learning & Information Commons: Moving Forward
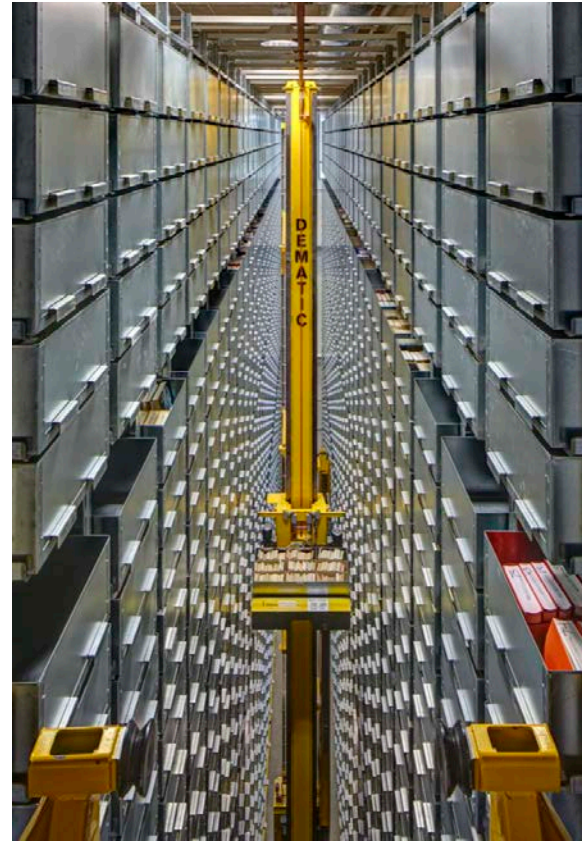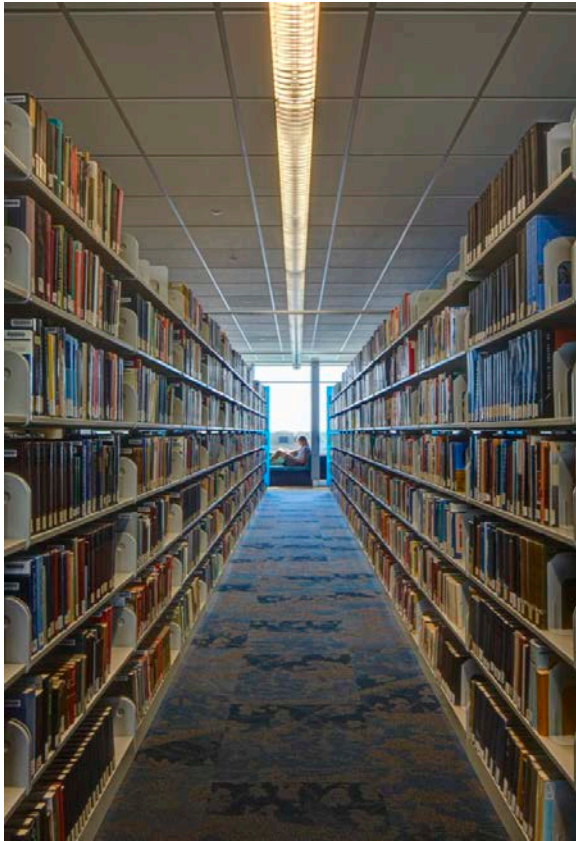




Photo Credit: SHW James Haefner

# School of Public, Nonprofit and Health Administration (SPNHA)

- Winter 2013, MPA profile
  - Part-time: 66%
  - Full-time: 33%
  - Michigan resident: 92%
- Winter 2014
  - MPA: 111 students
  - MHA: 69 students
- Move towards hybrid and some online classes
  - Hybrid allows 3 or more classes to use the same room
  - Preference for hybrid among students



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How can librarians work with faculty to reach students taking hybrid and online courses?

# SPNHA Librarian

- Teach
  - How to search the library catalog, academic databases, use citation software, find policies, statistics, data, and international reports
- Provide instruction tailored to specific courses
- Provide reference consultations
- Connect with faculty at meetings and via newsletters
- Introduce new ideas
  - eBooks, online journal articles for course readings

# New Framework

- Holdings ➔ Access[1]
- Quantity ➔ Quality
  - Searches on the Web and Google Scholar vs. library
- Web is students' 1st choice
  - 45 times more likely than library websites[2]
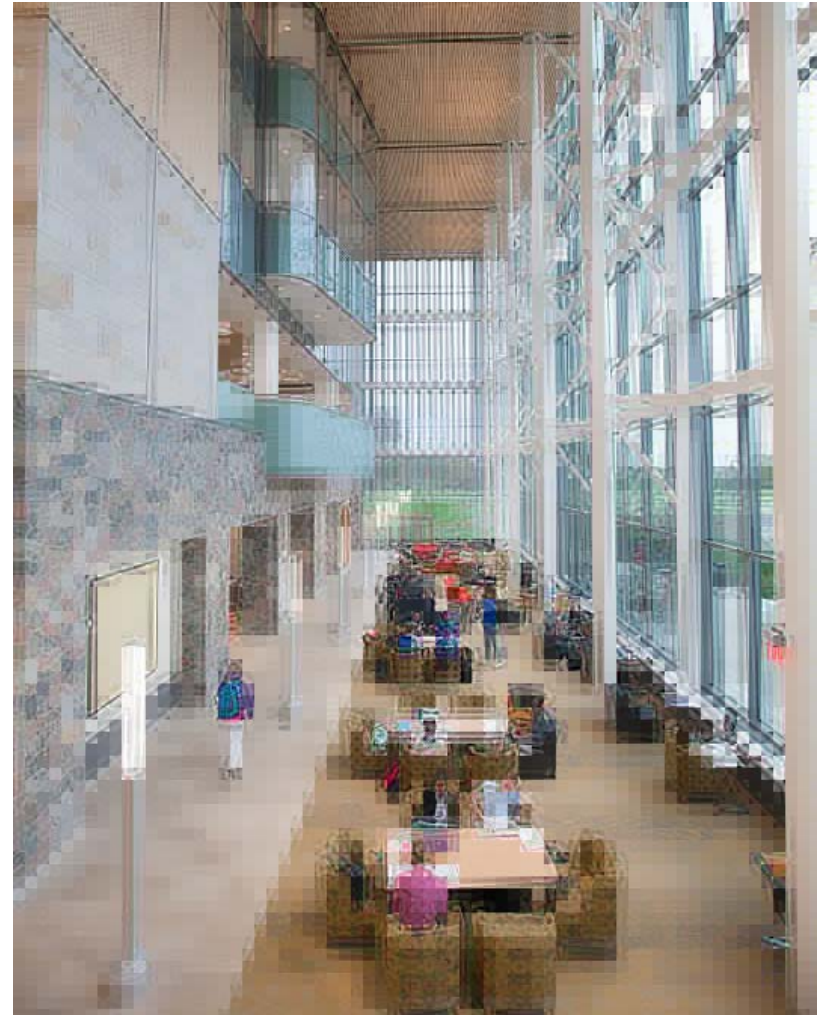
# GVSU Case Study



- 1 F2F and 1 online course
  - PA 661 Nonprofit Management: Practices
- 1 hybrid course
  - PA 643 Strategic Management and Planning
- Pre- and post-tests
- In-person instruction vs. online handout with video tutorials

# Case Study Pre-Test

## Information Seeking Questionnaire

Name a database or website or search engine to which you go to look for data/statistics.

Name two library databases that you might want to use for this class.

Briefly explain how you can freely get a book or journal article that the GVSU Libraries do not own.

After finding a great article on your topic, how do you find additional related articles?

# Case Study Pre-Test

| Class | Where to find stats/data? | Name 2 library databases? | Average familiarity with GVSU Library resources, from 1 – 10 |
|---|---|---|---|
| PA 661 01 (n=18) | Database: 9<br>Google: 5<br>Google Scholar: 2<br>None: 2 | Correct: 10<br>None/Incorrect: 8 | 6.8 |
| PA 661 02 (n=5) | Database: 3<br>Google: 1<br>Google Scholar: 1 | Correct: 3<br>None/Incorrect: 2 | 6.8 |

# Instruction Formats

- In-person instruction
  - Better tailored to students because of pre-test
  - Professor later emailed post-test to students
- Online handout
  - One page with links to resources, video tutorials, SPNHA Library Subject Guide, and the post-test

# Case Study Post-Test

| Class Respondents (*pre-test*) | Where to find stats/data? (*change*) | Name 2 library databases? (*change*) | Familiarity with GVSU Library resources, 1 – 10 (*change*) |
|---|---|---|---|
| PA 661 01 (n=11) (*n=18*) | Database: 8 *(-1)* Google: 1 *(-4)* Google Scholar: 1 *(-1)* None: 1 *(-1)* | Correct: 9 *(-1)* None/Incorrect: 2 *(-6)* | 7.3 *(+0.5)* |
| PA 661 02 (n=6) (*n=5*) | Database: 5 *(+2)* Google: 1 *(0)* | Correct: 5 *(+2)* None: 1 *(-1)* | 8.2 *(+1.4)* |

# Case Study Feedback

*"very informative and quite helpful - even for someone like me who believed they knew most everything about how the library system online works."*

*"very useful"*

*"very helpful"*

*"Even though this was the first time Ashley visited a class I've taken, most of my professors have included her contact information in the syllabus and encouraged our classes to utilize the services. I have had a previous meeting with Ashley which was very helpful in becoming familiar with navigating the library system and searching for sources."*

# Lessons Learned

- Suggests library instruction increases familiarity with library resources
- Hybrid vs. online
  - Hybrid library instruction can be in class
  - Online needs incentives/tracking
- Online tutorials need interactivity
- Collaboration is key

# Looking Forward

- Connect hybrid/online courses with library resources

- Increase hands-on learning for online courses

- Use database-created tutorials

- Investigate new technologies

- Don't re-invent the wheel
    – Cooperative Library Instruction Project (CLIP)
    – http://www.lib.uci.edu/uc-research-tutorial/begin.html

- Reach out to librarians

"**Libraries will get you through times of no money better than money will get you through times of no libraries.**"
*Anne Herbert*

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# Thank You



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