Models for Collaboration for Pre-Service Teacher Education Programs

Adis Beesting, Florida International University, US
M.O. Thirunarayanan, Florida International University, US

Within the last few years, national standards and guidelines have been created to ensure that tomorrow's teachers are prepared to address the challenges and expectations of a technological society that requires a seamless union between traditional core competencies and new information environments. Teacher education programs are able to address these needs by creating innovative programs and new partnerships that integrate technology within the context of the educational objectives of the teacher certification program. At Florida International University, successful partnerships have been created which address these issues by creating hands on learning experiences that reinforce the learning outcomes developed in the Information Literacy Initiative and the instructional objectives of the teacher education program.

The FIU Information Literacy Initiative seeks to partner librarians and faculty to prepare students to think critically and use information in ways that will enhance their academic, professional and personal lives. Librarians assist the students in the identification of information sources and the retrieval and selection of information; the faculty member creates assignments that require students to use both technology and critical thinking as they evaluate and use information available in print and electronic formats. The intent is to foster information literate individuals who understand the complexity of the information environment and can use the skills they have mastered as a means toward continued development.

The College of Education and the Education Librarian have built a close relationship that has resulted in the creation of library instruction sessions targeted specifically toward future teachers. When Information Literacy objectives are paired with the educational requirements of teacher certification programs, the resulting partnership can yield fulfilling results. One example of a successful affiliation takes place with the “Introduction to Educational Technology” course. Students attend library instruction sessions to research a topic related to technology in the classroom, which is then used as a basis to create a presentation on their topic in PowerPoint format. Students are encouraged to consult with faculty and librarians as they complete their project.