

**ACS Information Fluency Project
2002
A Proposal for Project Funding from Birmingham-Southern College**

1. Title: **New Faculty Mentoring and Information Fluency**
2. Leaders:
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Shane Pitts, Assistant Professor of Psychology, spitts@bsc.edu
Students to be chosen by disciplinary faculty
3. This proposal plans to bring together new faculty and their faculty mentors with representatives of Academic Computing, the Library, and disciplinary students, to integrate them into the idea of information fluency from the outset of their development of courses for their teaching at Birmingham-Southern College. Through a series of workshops we hope to provide them with training in information literacy via the Library, computer literacy via Academic Computing, and critical thinking skills via work with colleagues in their disciplines and students within those disciplines.
4. At various ACS Information Fluency gatherings we have noted how difficult it is to guide experienced faculty in understanding the difference between information literacy or simple computer skills and what we perceive as information fluency. A logical group to begin working with in creating a new paradigm of instructional understanding is new faculty. They are both at the beginning of their careers and at the beginning of their formation of their teaching methodologies as well as at the beginning of their formulation and construction of courses for our college curricula. Working with new faculty would have a benefit in addition to training them in information fluency; it would also help integrate them into the other services of the college such as, library services, and computer services.
5. A. The project will take place over the late summer and fall term.

B. The precise agenda will be set at the summer workshop. Dates will be set after the 2002-2003 College calendar is approved. All new faculty will receive these dates in their *New Faculty Guidebook* at Faculty Institute.
 1. Summer workshop for instructional team. At this time, the instructional team—the leaders listed above plus an additional library systems specialist—will be joined in a planning session by seven to 14 junior and senior students selected by the current disciplinary instructors of the new faculty.

2. Two consecutive Friday afternoon workshops for new faculty on intensive training in computer services and on library services. One day will be spent on issues of critical thinking and information literacy; the second will address computer skills (focusing on Blackboard and advanced applications of PowerPoint) and access to particular resources on campus. All workshop materials will be compiled into an IF guide.
 3. A series of three smaller luncheon meetings with two to three new faculty and disciplinary colleagues and students to discuss information fluency as it relates to the discipline. In particular, students will help orient new instructors to the current skills levels of our students. These luncheons will also have the benefit of reinforcing issues of information fluency for established faculty and will continue the work of two previous ACS IF grants to Birmingham-Southern College.
 4. Fields covered: Physics, Biology, English, Sociology, Psychology, Sculpture, Economics
- C. Participation will be integrated into the existing New Faculty Mentoring Program directed by Susan Hagen, Associate Dean of the College.
- D. The target audience is new, full-time faculty, including tenure track and one-year appointments.
6. Participants will be surveyed at the end of the term for their responses to the usefulness of the workshop and for recommendations for changes in the program next year. A short before and after questionnaire on “information fluency” will also be administered.
 7. Results will be shared with ACS institutions through the established symposium and seminar system, through written report, and through ACS publication if applicable. Dr. Hagen will also be part of a panel on technology and faculty evaluation at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association meeting in Baltimore in November 2002 (SAADE session); she will include information about this project in her statements. If appropriate, the team will also submit an abstract to future NITLE conferences.
 8. If successful, this project can be replicated at any institution with a new faculty support program.
 9. The preferred time of year for this series of events will be late summer into the late fall.