



Spring 2020

Faculty COVID-19 Reflection 9

Karlie Johnson
Jacksonville State University

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Name: Karlie Johnson

Faculty Rank: Assistant Professor

Department: Public Services

School: Library

The 2020 spring semester has presented me with unique and challenging experiences as a librarian and instructor. My overall workload has shifted to an entirely online environment. Before the start of the pandemic, my workload was split 70/30 between face to face and online engagement so it was a struggle at the beginning to make the move so quickly online. I moved not only my librarian responsibilities but my UH 202 class all completely online. This move required me to think about communication in a new way. I immediately defaulted to email but realized that not all my responsibilities, like research consultations, could be handled by email. I embraced Zoom and Microsoft Teams to video chat with patrons, and I quickly mastered the art of screensharing so I could help struggling students find sources. I quickly embraced the sound of my own voice and started recording myself on video messages so that my instructions to my students would stand out among their Canvas notifications. To help ease my students' anxiety, I dropped an oral history interview assignment because it violated social distancing and reworked portions of assignments that could no longer be achieved in an online environment. I learned a new screen recording software called OBS Studio in order to make library tutorials on resources that our students use the most. We called the series "Library Crash Course." All the things described were hard to accomplish in the rapid move to online, but I contributed a lot of the success in achieving these tasks due to the knowledge I acquired in Faculty Commons.