

## **2010 National Diversity in Libraries Conference: Poster Session Proposal**

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### **3. Title of poster:**

First-Generation College Students: Meeting their needs and understanding our expectations

### **4. Brief (100 words or less) description of poster**

When first-generation college students experience information failure, where do they turn? We hear of Millennials asking their parents for help with research, but what is the next step for students who are the first in their family to attend college? This poster presents two studies conducted at a public Midwestern university: a focus group study of first-generation college students' experiences of the academic library, and a mixed-

methods analysis of how librarians, faculty, and staff see first-generation students. These studies examine the information needs of first-generation students, and also reveal assumptions held by people in a position to help these students.

**5. At least three or more “take-aways” for the anticipated audience**

1. Discover questions and anxieties that first-generation students may have about academic libraries based on a focus group pilot study
2. See how faculty/staff assumptions about first-generation college students correlate to how first-generation students view themselves
3. Consider how academic libraries and librarians can create an environment that is more welcoming to first-generation and non-traditional students

**6. Biographical statement of the presenters (up to 50 words each)**

Stacy Brinkman is the Art and Architecture librarian and Asian Studies subject specialist at Miami University. Her research interests include library user studies, information and visual literacy, and area studies librarianship. She holds an MLS from Rutgers University and an MA from Princeton University.

Katie Gibson is a Humanities Librarian and adjunct instructor in the Interactive Media Studies department at Miami University. She is the selector for Spanish & Portuguese, French & Italian, German, Latin American Studies, Philosophy and Religion. She has an MLS from Indiana University.

Jason Paul Michel is the User Experience Librarian at Miami University Libraries, with primary responsibilities being usability testing, web design and exploration and implementation of emerging technologies. He also serves as the liaison to the Anthropology department. He attained his M.S. in Information and Library Science at Simmons College.

Jenny Presnell is Humanities Social Sciences Librarian for History, American Studies, Jewish Studies, Military Science, Middle East and Islamic Studies and Women's Studies at Miami University. Her research interests include undergraduate teaching methodologies for historical research strategies. She holds an MLS from Indiana University and an MA from Xavier University.