

# A welcome cite:

Perspectives on librarian roles and writing center support for the successful adoption of citation manual updates across a campus



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**Gregg-Graniteville  
Library**



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**Writing Center**

# Librarians + Writing Center Director



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## Background



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- ~3200 FTE, 62 undergraduate majors
- Undergraduate, public liberal arts college in western South Carolina
- Library faculty and the writing center director collaborate and share student-centered approaches to their work
- Campus efforts to support citation exist through the library and writing center
- Gregg-Graniteville library holds > 200 instruction sessions/academic year supporting 3360+ students, >2900 reference interactions/year
- Writing Center serves >1000 consultations/sem, > 50 workshops/sem supporting 1100+ students

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- These programs are successful because
  - Positively impact the work students produce in class
  - Gained widespread faculty buy-in
- Establish Librarians and Writing Center Director as experts external to academic departments
  - Well-positioned to facilitate things like citation updates that impact the entire campus



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Amanda Warren  
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## Context and Challenges

# Citation Updates

- MLA (2016), Chicago (2017), ASA (2019), & APA(2019) have updated their style manuals in the last few years.
- Campus adoption of new citation styles is challenging
- Librarians and campus writing centers can play a significant role in ushering a campus through a change.



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# Challenges/The Problem

- Learning ALL the changes
- Inconsistent campus adoption of citation updates creates a community-wide problem
- Faculty and students within and across the disciplines are affected by inconsistencies
- WC and Libraries can transform their INTER- and EXTRA-disciplinary position unto one of authority and guidance



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# Citation (transition/change) at UofSC Aiken

- In order to meet the challenges and solve the problems we've seen on our campus, we have used our positions as INTER- and EXTRA-disciplinary consultants and experts to actively help our campus transition through style changes.
- Outreach has helped us create partnerships with English, Writing Assessment/Writing Intensive programs, Nursing, Engineering, Sociology, and individual classes (Engineering, Political Science).



## Deborah Tritt Harmon

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# What we did + recommendations



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# Recommendations

## 1. **Become an expert. Build authority.**

- Create citation support materials (handouts, videos, etc.)
- Learn the fundamentals of a style and how a style manual update impacts those fundamentals.
- Provide citation instruction to varied campus groups.
- Updated style = New opportunity to establish yourself as an authority + outreach & instruction
  - Start by teaching the faculty about the style updates.

# Recommendations

## 2. Leverage your role as an outsider.

Libraries & writing centers generally exist outside of academic departments. This is a strength.

- As an outsider, ask a department:
  - a) When they will be updating to the new style;
  - b) How they will transition to the new style? Everyone at once or phased (let upperclass students finish with style the came in with).
- Advocate for students & encourage departmental conversations on citation.
- Serve as an external authority on issues of citation.



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# Recommendations

## 3. Build collaborations for citation support.

- Library
- Writing Center
- Teaching Faculty
- Helps reinforce authority. Builds consistency.
- Divide the labor - mastering citation style fundamentals for all the major styles is difficult. Find colleagues/collaborators who have strengths/interests in different styles.
- Collaborators provide insight into to campus citation needs. This helps us be more responsive with issues & better support our students.
- Create a web of citation support, rather than just silos (if possible).



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# Questions?

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# Works Cited

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