

Mix Feedback Report

LIBR 581: Digital Libraries and CPSC 430: Computers and Society

Description

Students from LIBR 581: Digital Libraries and CPSC 430: Computers and Society joined together for two class meetings (October 18th and November 8th) to discuss issues related to intellectual property. On November 8th, the two courses hosted a guest lecturer: Joy Kirchner, Scholarly Communications Coordinator, UBC Koerner Library.

UBC Mix Support

Natalie Baloy, UBC Mix Student Coordinator, connected with Dr. Absar and Dr. Leyton-Brown by email to suggest a possible collaboration between LIBR 581 and CPSC 430. After a meeting early in the term, the instructors decided to bring their students together for two meetings.

UBC Mix offered support through linking the instructors, facilitating catering the student events, supporting an honorarium for the guest speaker, and developing a feedback report.

Instructor Feedback

Rafa Absar, LIBR 581: Digital Libraries

I think the Mix process is a great initiative and I would definitely like to incorporate it into my future classes as well, given the right opportunities. As I come from a very interdisciplinary background myself, I think such activities can benefit the students and make things more interesting for them in a monotonous term. I think the most challenging parts of planning the mix are, of course, finding a course that has enough range but also sufficient overlap with one's own course to be of interest, and then finding a suitable time for both instructors and students.

Thanks for introducing me to this project and for all the help setting the two events up. I hope we can work together again sometime soon!

Kevin Leyton-Brown, CPSC 430: Computers and Society











I was happy to participate this year, and would do it again. The students had positive experiences about both MIX events; I discussed with them a bit today. Maybe the only thing I'd recommend would be to be a bit more forceful about recommending the sorts of MIX events that could be offered; it took us a while to come up with some arrangements that in the end were probably pretty typical.

Student Survey Results

What is your major?

SLAIS/MLIS	7
Computer Science	12
COGS/Cognitive Systems (Brain and Cognition stream: 2; CPSC stream: 1)	8
Computer Science and Cognitive Systems	1
Computer Science and Psychology	1
Computer Science and Business	2
Commerce, Business Technology Management	1
COGS and German	1
Combined Mathematics and Computer Science	1
Science – Computer Science	1
Geological Engineering	1
Engineering Physics	1

Level of Study

Response	Chart	Frequency	Count
Undergraduate student, year 1		0%	0
Undergraduate student, year 2		3%	1
Undergraduate student, year 3		13%	5
Undergraduate student, year 4		47%	18
Undergraduate student, year 5		18%	7
Masters student		16%	6
PhD student		0%	0
Staff		0%	0
Instructor		3%	1
Other, please specify...		0%	0

Are you registered in a course (or courses) related to this event?






Response	Chart	Frequency	Count
Yes, I am enrolled in LIBR 581: Digital Libraries		16%	6
Yes, I am enrolled in CPSC 430: Computers and Society		84%	31
No, I am enrolled in		0%	0
No, I am not enrolled in a course related this event. I heard about the event from:		0%	0

What does interdisciplinary learning mean for you?

- It was very fun to hear about computer sciences and meet the undergrad students.
- Exchanging ideas from different specialized backgrounds
- Hearing new thoughts from other people.
- Anything that has multiple departments at UBC involved. (More so if they are from unrelated or not often considered related fields)
- hearing about a topic from vastly different perspectives and fields
- Learning from different departments through interaction
- learning about a topic through different focal points of the different fields studying it
- interdisciplinary learning is a collaboration of people to discuss a common topic. A benefit is that people with different backgrounds can come together and come to various conclusions about the same topic.
- Different departments learning the same subject-matter together.
- Not much. Thought it was kind of a waste of time.
- Interdisciplinary learning is a melding of multiple disciplines that brings a different perspective to looking at a similar problem. The main challenge I've found with interdisciplinary learning is that it requires both parties to share a common language/background knowledge.
- One of the values is that students in different fields are taught different things about and points of view on certain topics. By combining these students in discussion each group is exposed to ideas learned/considered by the other group.
- An opportunity to challenge my own learning by incorporating discussion and learning from outside my field.
- sharing my disciplinary perspective/knowledge with others and vice versa; acknowledging differences and similarities across disciplines in relation to a particular topic; synthesizing or reconciling distinct disciplinary perspectives to enhance, redefine, or reassess my understanding of a topic
- Understanding how various disciplines relate to each other.
- I think it is very valuable, as it provides me a different perspective






- As a student in the cognitive systems program as well as computer science, I already appreciate the level of insight that participating in different disciplines can bring.
- Exchange ideas and perspective / create diversity in classroom learning
- Interdisciplinary learning is key to gaining perspective on particular problems from other sets of assumptions and concerns.
- It's nice to learn some topics that may not relate directly to your discipline but more loosely related
- Combining different subjects in hopes of creating new ideas.
- The opportunity for students to be exposed to other fields that relate to their specialization. Students will be able to appreciate different perspectives and may in turn grasp a better understanding to their own fields.
- I think it's core to a well-rounded education in our degree. The more exposure we get to it, the more connections we can make outside of our field.
- Interdisciplinary learning means for me is I can touch different fields and learn new things. My major is CS but I am also willing to learn physics cause I think it is very useful in real life.
- Multiple disciplines that overlap are discussed in a single class / coffee and cookies typically provided for these special students
- It's good to have a different viewpoint on things w/people from diff. backgrounds. Sometimes we operate our diff. jargon though, as some material gets covered twice.
- It seems like a really good idea - bringing together students that are approaching issues from different perspectives. It might be beneficial to have a forum for ongoing interdisciplinary discussions, such as a message board/blog or email group to keep the dialog going.
- Interdisciplinary learning is a fantastic idea to expand and share knowledge across faculties that tend to be quite closed and separate.
- Values: learning about different perspectives / Challenges: being able to communicate across disciplines
- In general, I think interdisciplinary learning can be useful or valuable. Seeing how other departments deal with topics gives me a wider understanding of the issues.
- I think the meaning of interdisciplinary learning is the type of learning that is run under certain rules/disciplines.
- Interdisciplinary means that two or more disciplines or areas of studies join together to teach students.

The October 18th event was educationally valuable to me.

Response	Chart	Frequency	Count
Strongly agree		14%	5
Agree		49%	17
Neutral		26%	9
Disagree		6%	2
Strongly disagree		0%	0
Additional comments or reflections:		6%	2







- I was not present
- Wasn't there

The November 8th event was educationally valuable to me.

Response	Chart	Frequency	Count
Strongly agree		17%	6
Agree		49%	17
Neutral		11%	4
Disagree		14%	5
Strongly disagree		3%	1
Additional comments or reflections:		6%	2







- I also missed it.
- Wasn't there

The interdisciplinary nature of the October 18th event enhanced my learning.

Response	Chart	Frequency	Count
Strongly agree		14%	5
Agree		49%	17
Neutral		23%	8
Disagree		6%	2
Strongly disagree		3%	1
Additional comments or reflections:		6%	2







- Wasn't there
- Did not attend

The interdisciplinary nature of the November 8th event enhanced my learning.

Response	Chart	Frequency	Count
Strongly agree		11%	4
Agree		56%	20
Neutral		17%	6
Disagree		8%	3
Strongly disagree		3%	1
Additional comments or reflections:		6%	2

- Wasn't there
- Not present

In general, connecting with students and instructors in other disciplines enriches my education.

Response	Chart	Frequency	Count
Strongly agree		26%	9
Agree		54%	19
Neutral		11%	4
Disagree		3%	1
Strongly disagree		3%	1
Additional comments or reflections:		3%	1

Please share any other comments or questions about this event or about interdisciplinary teaching and learning.

- I've seen Joy Kirchner give very similar talks on copyright on two other occasions and didn't learn anything new.
- Having food and drinks made the interdisciplinary learning fun.
- The event about copyright was strongly relevant as it talked about current issues (bill c-11 came into effect only days ago). As well, unlike the CPSC430 course it was all Canadian law (which is what CPSC430 should cover seeing as we are a canadian university in canada...)
- I really liked the fact that there was food.
- Having different students in the class had no effect on any aspect of my learning.
- is this even useful? i missed both classes
- The discussion was a positive learning experience, while the lecture wasn't very helpful
- It was nice to see things from a different department's perspective. For example, my opinion on IP was specific to my major. But by associating with the library students, I gained new knowledge on how IP affects them.
- i really enjoyed the session i attended and would enjoy the opportunity to attend events like it again
- I really enjoyed collaborating with the library students, interactive learning is always the most effective
- Overall, helped clarify the laws regarding intellectual property
- The different outlooks were interesting, not necessarily educational.

- Nov. 8 lecture largely covered material our CPSC class has already learned in a very non-engaging way. I feel it defeats the whole interdisciplinary nature to have a single lecturer talk to the whole class, while students from 2 different disciplines do not interact at all.
- I love meeting/discussing w/other students in different classes. Also, food choices were very tasty. Thank you.
- It was really nice to hear the opinions of people who a: have a diff. background of study, B: have a vested interest in a topic we're discussing.
- A great way to get other students from different field to share their ideas with us.
- The guest lecture was a bit too long
- Fun to have food brought in, make interdiscipline learning fun
- The October 18th event was interesting, but the approach was more philosophically-based, and I didn't find that very useful.