Academic writing support – a new field of activity for music librarians?!

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https://bibliothek.mdw.ac.at/schreibzentrum/



Outline

- Academic writing support & libraries
- The library of the mdw: from academic writing support to the writing centre
- Activity for music librarians?
- Recommendations

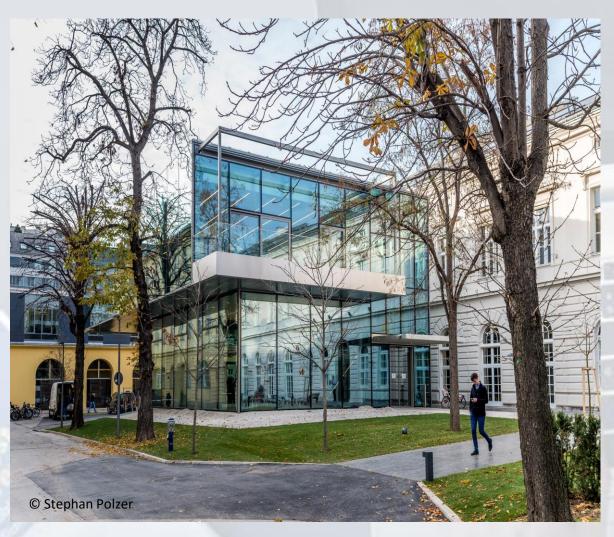


Model of writing expertise¹





The mdw – University of Music and Perfoming Arts Vienna



- 2.970 Students
- Over 70 different countries
- 115 degree-programmes
 - Instrumental Studies (performance)
 - Music Education
 - Composition
 - Music Therapy
 - Etnomusicology
 - Drama
 - Film



How it all began...

February 2018

The idea is born:
 offering low threshold
 support to
 students

2018-2019

- Drop-in-Format: 2 hours per week
- Writing techniques,
 Strategies against
 writers' block,
 referencing
 conventions
- "One-Stop-Shop"





Students' concerns and questions



- Genre
- Referencing
- Text structure
- Layout
- Citation style
- Literature research



- Writing techniques
- Writing process



- "Voice"
- Stance



From academic writing support to the writing centre

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2020

- Covid-19
- Online-consultation

Writing Centre:

- Central point of contact
- Workshops
- Embedded teaching formats

2021-2022

- Online training for writing tutors at the University of Education in Freiburg
- "[...] make sure that writers, and not necessarily their texts, are what get changed by instruction."2



Services provided by the writing centre

- Writing support
- Workshops
- Online-Materials
- Events (Write Night...)



mdw write night



Schreibdidaktisches Verfassen Sie für die wichtigsten Begriffe oder Aussagen eines Textes

- Texte lesen und zusammenfasser
- ✓ Argumentationsstruktur aufbauer
- ein Glossar aus drei Teilen: Definition, Erklärung und Beispiel. Diese drei Teile bilden gleichzeitig die Grundstruktur für eine wissenschaftliche Argumentation und können so die Grundlage für
- Definition: kann entweder eine vollständig zitierte oder auch paraphrasierte Begriffsdefinition sein. Sie können unter diesem Punkt auch die Hauptaussage eines Textabschnittes notieren
- Erklärung: stellt Zusammenhänge zwischen den Bestandteilen der Regriffsdefinition her. Diese können entweder auch aus der Fachliteratur stammen oder selbst formuliert werden.
- Beispiel: veranschaulicht die komplexen Zusammenhänge. Kann entweder aus der Literatur oder der eigenen Praxis stammen.







Writing consultation issues

- Techniques of academic writing
- Finding and narrowing a topic
- Information retrieval
- Structuring
- Writing strategies
- Referencing
- Language and style
- Feedback on the text (max. 5 pages)



Our philosophy and principles

- Expert consultation (not peer)
- No quick fixes
- Focus on the writing process
- Enhancement of the writer's development
- Non-directive counselling



Academic writing support – a new field of activity for music librarians?

- ✓ There is need
- ✓ Skills already present
- ✓ Library as inspiring place
- ✓ Brings students to the library
- ✓ Idea of students' interests and needs



Recommendations for music librarians

- ✓ Communicate clearly to stakeholders:
 - ✓ what you are doing,
 - √why you are doing it
 - √ what you want to achieve
- ✓ Use networks
- √ Have a clear PR-strategy and a mission statement
- ✓ Set limits regarding your service
- ✓ Set clear, but realistic goals
- √ Take up training





Not everything is predictable, sometimes you have to jump in at the deep end!



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