Information Literacy for College Students

TLC Track One: Teaching Methods & Assessment
What's the problem?

74% of college freshman struggle to think of keywords, evaluate search results, and select sources.
Head (2013)

54% of faculty strongly agree that students entering college lack research skills.
Wolff (2016)

23% of first-year community college students are prepared for college-level research.
Library Journal 2017
First-Year College Research

**BMG 140**
Research and analyze a company. Use credible sources (include history, financial analysis, SWOT reports) to argue whether or not the company would be a good investment.

**ENG 111**
Write an argumentative essay about a current issue and make a policy-related proposal. Support your position with credible sources, include scholarly journals.

**COM 101**
Write an informative speech using at least three academic sources to support your topic.
"Overall, young people's ability to reason about the information on the Internet can be summed up in one word: **bleak**"
Many students...

- Pick a topic
- Take a position
- Write a paper
- Look for sources

What could go wrong?

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Common Research Struggles

- Choosing a Topic
  - Taking a Stance/Focusing the Topic
  - Developing a Research Question
- Turning a Topic Into a Search
  - Keywords
  - Where to Search? (Google? Databases?) How to Search?
- Awareness of Information Sources
  - I heart Google
  - What Type of Information Source Will Meet My Need?
- Research is a Process
  - Time and Energy
  - Asking and Synthesizing
- Evaluating Information
  - Overly Confident
  - Data & News Literacy

By Terry Johnston [CC-BY 2.0], via Flickr
Our Response:

Information Literacy

- The **reflective discovery** of information
- Understanding how information is produced and valued
- **Creating new knowledge** from existing information
- **Ethical participation** in communities of learning

Image sources: Lew Klien College of Media and Communications [CC-BY 2.0], via Flickr
Information Literacy Framework

- Research as Inquiry
- Information Creation as a Process
- Authority is Constructed and Contextual
- Searching as Strategic Exploration
- Scholarship as Conversation
- Information Has Value

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Information Literacy in Action

It's all about the outcomes.

Review information literacy outcomes handout and select a learning outcome related to your assignment.
Furry Lobsters and Research
A sample information literacy activity

Andrew Thurber, Oregon State University - Oregon State University Flickr account: https://www.flickr.com/photos/oregonstateuniversity/6439209127
Application:
Incorporate information literacy skills development into your course

- Assignments
- Exercises
- Discussion
- Reflection
- Role Playing
- Problem solving using real data
Application:
Enlist Library Support

- Mini workshop
- Research workshop
- Custom research guide
- Apply research toolkit

MINI WORKSHOPS / 15 MINUTES
- News literacy
- MLA/APA overview
- Plagiarism
- Subject database kick-start
- Instructor’s choice

RESERVES
- Place textbooks and other materials in the library for specific classes.

RESEARCH WORKSHOPS
- Hands-on research instruction
- Research activity with course research guide
- Instructor’s choice

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE FOR FACULTY
- Open Educational Resources (OER): Research and Discovery for WCC OER course development.
- Liaison Librarian: Connect with your liaison librarian for all your research needs.

ALL YOU CAN EAT
- Research instruction offered as a series of sessions that build upon one another.

EMBEDDED COURSE LIBRARIAN
- For classes with a substantial research component. Librarian is integrated into course to provide targeted, just-in-time research coaching throughout the semester.

RESEARCH TOOLKIT
- Bite-sized, interactive research tutorials.

CUSTOM RESEARCH GUIDE OR VIDEO TUTORIAL
- Created by request for any topic, research tool or idea.

E-ARTICLES
- Link to one (or more) of the thousands of e-articles the library subscribes to.

BOOK & MEDIA REQUESTS
- Connect with a liaison librarian to request books and media for the library. Office delivery available.

Explore more and order online:
http://libguides.wccnet.edu/facultyservices
Thank you!

Don't be a stranger.

We ♥ WCC Faculty

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