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Embedding Information Literacy Skills in Undergraduate Research Studies

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Embedding Information Literacy Skills in Undergraduate Research Studies

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Introduction

At the beginning of this research students worked with both the teacher and the librarian to identify an educational problem that was important personally.

The purpose of our Information Literacy classes was to engage students in scholarly work and teach them basic concepts.

1. To scaffold their thinking process using the scientific method
2. To assist them in describing their own research

Engaged Learning is both a process and a product involving students and faculty. This refers to building meaning around a researchable topic and teaching students how to develop focused research that includes academic literature, using full-text, peer-reviewed articles.

The goal is to describe the steps and have students apply each step, building their research work in stages. In this process we developed a rubric for students.

Methods

Students need to:

- Acquire academic and information literacy skills
- Demonstrate how to use the databases with keywords, subject headings, and limiting terms
- Learn the process of becoming informed on a research question
- Use scholarly peer-reviewed articles
- Find primary sources such as studies
- Locate a professional organization that pertains to your topic
- Know your limits and ask for assistance as needed

Strategies

- Form a well-stated thesis statement
- Identify your topic
- Use subject headings
- Unlist wikipedia for keywords
- Using scholarly peer-reviewed articles
- Find primary sources such as studies
- Locate a professional organization that pertains to your topic
- Know your limits and ask for assistance as needed

Basic Skill Set:

1. Knowing how to use search terms to focus on one's topic
2. Knowing how to conduct a search for information
3. Knowing how to use the university's library website to find books and databases
4. Understanding how to search the databases:
   a. Knowing how to locate research articles in professional journals
   b. Knowing how to identify primary research studies in professional journals
5. Learning how to evaluate the authority and objectivity of the written information in light of one's research focus
6. Understanding the focus of the information one has found and read
7. Using the information effectively: finding reliable, objective, and authoritative information
8. Understanding the techniques of academic search in order to teach others how to acquire focused and reliable information
9. Understanding and learning citation styles

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Liberal Studies

Master's Students

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References


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