Information Literacy for First Year Students

Lesson Title: The Strategic Searching Module

Level: First Year Seminar (IL Class B)

Duration: 50-80 minutes (one class period)

Overview:

Building on Class A of the information literacy workshop, this class emphasizes strategies to develop a focused research topic, to identify search tools for academic research, and to execute an effective search strategy in a library database or open access search engine.

Competency:

Demonstrates a search strategy to identify and access relevant information in order to satisfy a specific need. (General University Requirement: Foundations: Information Literacy)

Outcomes:

- Students will be able to identify two tools for finding academic information.
- Students will discover techniques to narrow or expand their research statement.
- Students will understand and use keywords, Boolean logical operators, truncation, and phrase searching to focus their search.
- Students will understand the use of synonyms to make a search more complete.

Pre Class Activity:

Prior to session “B” of information literacy students will:

- Complete Modules 2, 3, & 5 of ResearchPath AND related quizzes found in the Information Essentials classroom of Kodiak. (30 minutes).
- Students devise a research topic/question for the Research Strategy Annotated Bibliography assignment

Components of Instruction:

- Meet in D’Amour Library Digital Learning Center (D215)
- Review evaluation criteria for authority, purpose, audience
- Demonstrate and discuss the process of focusing research topic. (5 minutes)
- Review and apply strategies for effective searching: including Boolean concepts, phase searching, and truncation. (5 minutes)
- Discuss vocabulary choices: keywords, phrases, synonyms and controlled vocabulary. (5 minutes)
- Review limiting functions (full text; scholarly; date) (3 minutes)
- Create Ebsco account, folders, and citations (5 minutes)
- Describe and discuss annotated bibliography characteristics (5 minutes)
- Students apply searching strategies in an academic database on a focused topic of their choice. (15 minutes)
- Students apply searching strategies to Google to find academic and trade sources
Graded Assessment: Faculty choice

- Complete the Research Strategy Annotated Bibliography (see Annotated Bibliography assignment; Students will submit two copies of the bibliography via Kodiak to First Year Seminar & “Information Essentials” Classrooms)

  OR

- Complete the Research Strategy Annotated Bibliography assignment (see Annotated Bibliography assignment; Students will submit two copies of the bibliography via Kodiak to First Year Seminar & “Information Essentials” Classrooms).

AND

- Graded quizzes

Module B Follow Up Activities: Faculty choice of activities

- Complete and submit two copies of the Research Strategy Annotated Bibliography assignment: one to your First Year Seminar Class and the second to the Information Essentials “Research Strategy Annotated Bibliography” dropbox.

  OR

- Create and submit a Research Strategy Annotated Bibliography in APA or MLA format: one to your First Year Seminar Class and the second to the Information Essentials “Research Strategy Annotated Bibliography” dropbox

Focus Questions:

- What are some key ways to focus a thesis or topic statement in order to make a paper or project more manageable?
- How does a keyword search differ from a phrase search?
- What is a Boolean search, and why is this concept important for database searching?
- What is the purpose of truncation and phrase searching?
- What are the components of a database citation?