Information Literacy for First Year Students

From Context to Analysis: Using Specific Tools for Specialized Information Research

Level: ENGL 133 (IL Class Module D)

Duration: 50-80 minutes (one class period)

Overview:

In an effort to integrate previous lessons in information literacy, this class focuses on selecting, and strategically using specific research tools to support an academic research project for English 133 students. Students will investigate specific research tools using a specialized LibGuide created for the course theme. Concepts and skills introduced in previous sessions will be reinforced and expanded.

Competency:

Students should have the ability to identify, access, evaluate, and select information to fit defined needs. (General University Requirement: Foundations: Information Literacy)

Outcomes:

- Students will be able to:
  - select strategic research tools related to their specialized research topic or question
  - generate keywords to create effective search strategies
  - identify subject headings to create effective information searches
  - utilize effective search strategies to access relevant information sources for their research topic or question
  - find & select resources by evaluating relevance, purpose, type, audience, and authority.

In Class Activities:

- In groups, students will investigate a specific research tool to find a particular type of information needed for their research topics.
- In groups, students will discuss their information search tool, how it works, and the type of information accessed.
- Students will search for reference sources, books, articles, web sites, blogs, and other information sources relating directly to their topic.
Recommended Assessment Activity:

- Students will create an evaluative annotated bibliography based on their research topics or question.

Components of Instruction:

- Meet in the Digital Learning Center (D215) in D'Amour Library or alternate location
- Review types of information sources from previous class. (5 minutes)
- Based on Module C groupings, students will explore a specific tool related to their group’s information type to identify the information characteristics found in the source. (10-15 minutes)
- Students will discuss the various library tools they explored and how they can be used. (20 minutes)
- Students will search for articles, books, and other information sources relating directly to their topic. (10-30 minutes)

Focus Questions:

- How does considering the conversation around your topic impact the way you search for information on your topic?
- How can subject headings be utilized in the search for information sources?
- Why are “Type,” “Audience,” and “Purpose” central concepts in evaluating the quality of information resources?