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## Information Literacy and General Education: Supporting Student Success

Jim Kinnie

*University of Rhode Island, jkinnie@uri.edu*

Mary C. MacDonald

*University of Rhode Island, marymac@uri.edu*

Amanda Izenstark

*University of Rhode Island, amanda@uri.edu*

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# Information Literacy and General Education: Supporting Student Success

— Jim Kinnie —

Mary MacDonald

Amanda Izenstark

NERCOMP Annual Conference, March 28, 2017

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# Overview

Integrate IL into college curriculum

Newly-developed general education program (across 4 years, outcomes-based, rubrics)

Submission process/approval panels

Challenges/Rewards

Recommendations

# Briefly... A Little About URI

State's flagship public university

14,560 Undergraduates

3,135 First Year Students

603 Transfer Students

URI Communications and Marketing. (Undated.) *URI at a Glance*  
2015-2016. Retrieved from

[http://web.uri.edu/about/files/2016/02/URI\\_At\\_A-Glance2015-16.pdf](http://web.uri.edu/about/files/2016/02/URI_At_A-Glance2015-16.pdf)

# General Education (Gen Ed) Program Overview

12 Student Learning Outcomes (SLO), 2 outcomes/course & Grand Challenge

40 credits over all grade levels

Four years in development

Passed Faculty Senate 2014 / Implemented Fall 2016

SLO Rubric Development 2014-2016

Each SLO had rubric developers, panel approvers, and instructor assessors

# A Note on Information Literacy

Our definition, for this purpose, is the ability to find, evaluate, and ethically use information.

The rubric we developed was based on the [ACRL Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education](#).

ACRL has since replaced the Standards with the [Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education](#), and this will inform developments in the future.

# URI Information Literacy Rubric

IL exists on all campuses, sometimes buried

2008: Librarians developed campus-wide rubric to highlight and operationalize IL across curriculum

2010-2012: IL Rubric piloted with stakeholders from across university

2012-2014: Used as model for the Gen Ed Program (competency-based, assessable)

# IL Panel Charge

Gen Ed Committee & General Education Implementation

Steering Team (GEIST)

Anticipated large influx of submissions

Gen Ed Committee & GEIST organized 12 'approval panels'

Gen Ed Committee member, Curricular Affairs Committee

(CAC) member, subject faculty

Course submissions with Information Literacy outcome



# How We Reviewed Proposals

Proposals submitted through Gen Ed Program's form

Each of us brought perspective of our positions

Jim, as chair of the Gen Ed Committee

Mary, as the University Libraries' Head of Instruction and  
chair of our college curriculum committee

Amanda, as Curricular Affairs Committee rep

Initially reviewed the proposals "on the fly," then developed a  
form we could use to standardize elements requiring attention

Met to discuss fine details, and make final approval or return  
for revision

# Information Literacy in the Curriculum

Faculty assume students are prepared to research at the college level

IL is different in each discipline and academic program

SLOs must be measurable

Once faculty included teaching, learning, and *practice* of IL skills, the proposals earned acceptance

# What is information literacy in [your course here]?

Clarifying information literacy concepts; deconstructing the IL definition and objectives

Matching info lit concepts to the specific course goals and assignments

Identifying places in the course where concepts can be integrated and practiced, before students must accomplish finished product

# Examples of IL in the Disciplines

Putting information literacy into context for each discipline, program, department, and course.

Anthropology (APG) 201: Human Origins and Evolution

English (ENG) 368: The Bible

History (HIS) 146: U.S. Women's History 1890-present

Oceanography (OCG) 131: Volcanoes and the Environment

Theatre (THE) 351: Principles and Theories of Theatrical Costuming I

# Suggestions & Recommendations to Support IL

Some proposals were spot on

Some proposals needed some minor adjustment

Adding *evidence* that students *practiced* IL concepts and skills of finding, evaluating, and effectively using information, and *assessing* that evidence

Unfortunately, some proposals didn't include IL skills at all

Writing in a foreign language, describing personal experience

Literacy in regard to content of the course

Evaluating *questions* or subject *concepts*, rather than evaluating relevant information or sources of info

# Subcommittee on Assessment of General Education (SAGE)

Pilot Assessment of IL in credit courses 2016-2018

Pilot to assess process and efficacy of rubrics

Assessing all 12 SLOs in two years, 3 outcomes per semester

Davis Grant provides stipend for faculty participation

Faculty attend Assessment Academy, and receive continued guidance over semester of assessment.

Faculty assess IL competency of small % of their course

# Additional Resources

URI General Education Tracker

<http://web.uri.edu/facsen/course-tracking/>

Information Literacy Toolkit

<http://uri.libguides.com/iltoolkit>

General Education Course Submissions

<https://web.uri.edu/facsen/curricular-matters/general-education-course/>

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# Thank you!

Jim Kinnie

[jkinnie@uri.edu](mailto:jkinnie@uri.edu)

Mary MacDonald

[marymac@uri.edu](mailto:marymac@uri.edu)

Amanda Izenstark

[amanda@uri.edu](mailto:amanda@uri.edu)

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