Instruction @ the URI Libraries   Public Services

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Instruction @ the URI Libraries

Information Literacy, General Education & You
Your courses may already include Information Literacy components

You've probably heard the news: beginning in Fall 2016, URI will implement a new General Education program that includes eleven student learning outcomes. One of the learning outcomes is Information Literacy (IL). What's that, you say? Is it something I should pay attention to? Is this an outcome that we could address in our department's general education courses? The short answer is that you probably already ask students to show evidence of information literacy, and adding information literacy to your outcomes may be a natural fit.

Do you teach a course that as part of an in-class exercise or course assignment, asks students to:

- ✓ Develop a research question?
- ✓ Identify the scope of the information necessary?
- ✓ Find information sources to solve a research question, problem or other information need?
- ✓ Evaluate or analyze information sources?
- ✓ Use information ethically and legally?
- ✓ Cite information sources?

If yes, then the course includes information literacy as defined by the American Association of Colleges & Universities, the Association of Colleges and Research Libraries, and by the University of Rhode Island.

Example assignments with information literacy components include research papers, annotated bibliographies, editorials, speeches, grant proposals, marketing or business plans, digital media presentations, posters, literature reviews, position and argument papers, reviews and critiques – these are just a few possible assignments that would normally ask students to find, evaluate, and use information sources.

To see how requiring students to find, evaluate, analyze, and use information sources in order to solve information needs or problems fits the new General Education Curriculum, consult the IL Rubric.

Assignments, Assessments, and Information Literacy

For more information on assessing Information Literacy in your courses, check out the IL Toolkit! The Information Literacy Toolkit includes sample IL assignments, exercises, best practice ideas, the information literacy assessment rubric, and a link to the InfoRhode online information literacy interactive tutorials!

New Catalog Coming June 15th

After reviewing several new catalog systems with the research needs of the URI community in mind, the University Libraries decided that moving to a new platform with greater flexibility would better serve URI students, faculty, and staff. On June 15th, the new catalog will replace the older HELIN catalog.

The new catalog will search URI's collections, and provides better search options, improved sorting and exporting functionality, as well as features for narrowing down a broad search. If you regularly research similar topics for your own work, you can even configure an RSS feed or email alerts for updates.

While we'll be offering Search Savvy Seminars on the new catalog and covering it in URI 101, many experienced students may want formal instruction on how to use its many useful features. If you would like to set up an instruction session for your class, please contact Mary MacDonald, Head of Instruction, at marymac@uri.edu or (401) 874-4635.

For details and answers to frequently asked questions about this transition, please see our Catalog transition guide at http://uri.libguides.com/catalog.

By the Numbers
In Spring 2015...

156 LIB 120 and LIB 220 students learned to conduct college level information research through the exploration and practice of information literacy concepts and skills.

1,150 WRT 104 and 106 students came to the library for an introduction to finding articles.

502 students in 25 additional classes from 10 academic departments attended sessions targeted to the information research needs of their classes.

Related Updates
Construction on Active Learning Classroom this Summer

If you hear construction sounds on the first level of the Carothers Library this summer, it's coming from the area slated for the Active Learning Classroom being spearheaded by the Office for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning. For details about this classroom, see their website at http://web.uri.edu/atl/active-learning-classroom/.

Database platform changes

This summer, some of our databases will switch from the EBSCOhost platform to the ProQuest platform. This switch provides enhanced integration with the new catalog, and offers the same functionality as the EBSCOhost platform. If you have questions about using any of our article and research databases, please contact the Info & Research Help Desk at (401) 874-2653, email us at urilibrarian@gmail.com, or stop by in person.