University of Rhode Island

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Instruction @ the URI Libraries   Public Services

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Instruction @ the URI Libraries - May 2016

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Balancing Subject Content with Information Research Skills
So Much to Cover, and So Little Time?

The [Ithaka S+R US Faculty Survey 2015](#) (April 2016) noted that two-thirds of faculty members strongly agreed that students' research skills related to locating and evaluating scholarly information is an important educational goal for the the courses they teach. ***Do you agree, but struggle to find time to teach these concepts and skills alongside your course content?*** Recommend your students enroll in one or more of the new LIB General Education courses providing students with in-depth information literacy content, experience, and practice of important research skills that can be applied across all academic majors. These courses teach students how to find, evaluate, and manage information in order to create original digital products. Each three credit course focuses on B4 Information Literacy (IL) and a second SLO. (For students needing to fulfill requirements under the previous system, these courses have also been approved to meet the earlier General Education requirements.)

LIB 150 Search Strategies for the Information Age (previously LIB 120)
2001-2015: English Communication
2016: B4 IL and B2 Communicate Effectively
Introduction to the exploration and practice of information literacy and library research concepts and skills, with an emphasis on the communication of information in today's world.

LIB 250 Information Research Across Disciplines
2001-2015: English Communication
2016: B4 IL and B1 Writing
Exploration and practice in finding, evaluating, and using information in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and formal sciences. Examine information production, resources, roles, and uses.

LIB 350 Current Issues of the Information Age
(Previously LIB 220)
2001-2015: English Communication
2016: B4 IL and C1 Civic Knowledge & Responsibilities
Critical issues concerning the use of information are examined. Emphasis is placed on the interdisciplinary nature of information and using research techniques as a foundation for informed global citizenship.

Upcoming LIB Course Offerings

Summer 2016
LIB 350 - Online!

Fall 2016
LIB 150 - Mondays/Wednesdays 3:00 - 4:15 pm
LIB 150 - Tuesdays/Thursdays 4:30 - 5:45 pm
LIB 250 - Tuesdays/Thursdays 12:30 - 1:45 pm
LIB 350 - Tuesdays/Thursdays 11:00 - 12:15 pm

"At work, graduates scrambled to stay current & extend the shelf life of their skills."

As we all work to prepare students for their lives ahead, this quote caught the eyes of several librarians. It's from a short video produced to highlight major findings from Project Information Literacy's Lifelong Learning Study. Released in early 2016, Project Information Literacy (PIL) researchers found that search engines were the main sources graduates used to stay informed, and "Most [graduates] believed college helped them learn how to search for and evaluate information." This is heartening news, but the same survey showed recent grads did not feel they learned the critical thinking skills necessary to develop their own questions once they were out in the work world.

PIL's full report (available at http://projectinfolit.org/component/k2/item/73-latest-research) offers several elements that colleges and universities can incorporate into learning at all levels, including "supporting lifelong learning across disciplines" and "reaffirming the broad-based purpose of higher education" (p. 62), as well as helping students connect with experts and social sources in their fields (p. 63). They also note that critical thinking skills and evaluation skills help students target appropriate human and textual information sources after graduation and beyond. Making sure our students succeed in finding information here as well as when they leave the University is in everyone's best interest.

By the Numbers
In Spring 2016...

28 LIB 150 students learned to conduct college level information research through the exploration and practice of information literacy concepts and skills.

1,035 WRT 104 and 106 students came to the library for an introduction to finding articles.

1,018 students in 48 additional classes from 15 academic departments attended sessions targeted to the information research needs of their classes.

Related Updates

More RefWorks Changes
RefWorks will be going live with its interface changes this summer. For details on using the new interface, head to http://proquest.libguides.com/newrefworks or attend one of our Search Savvy Seminars in the fall.

Annual Search Savvy Seminar Planning Survey
In 2015-2016, we offered Search Savvy Seminars on alternatives to Google, scholarly publishing, and the new URI Libraries Search. We'd like to hear more about what you want - as well as when and in which formats. Please help us meet your needs and those of your students by filling out this short survey about times, formats, and topics, so that we can help you research and work more efficiently!