WML Information Literacy Instruction Assessment 2023-24
Classroom Activity Report

Faculty Librarian: Sheli Pratt-McHugh

Semester: Fall 2023

Course Number and Name: PS 110: Scranton and the World (EP)

Course Instructor (Last Name): Allison

Date(s) of Information Literacy Instruction: 11/8/2023

Time(s) of Information Literacy Instruction: 8:00-8:50am

Location: WML 306

Number of Students Registered in Course: 18

Summary of research assignment or task

Students are asked to find 5 peer reviewed academic articles for an annotated bibliography. Dr. Allison wanted to highlight specific political science periodicals. I used a handout I developed on developing keywords and refining a research question (attached). I demonstrated using Royal Search to find peer reviewed articles, and how to limit by specific journals. I also showed how to use Publication Finder to browse individual periodicals. I gave time to brainstorm keywords on the handout. I also gave out the 5Ws to use in evaluating their sources. And we played Library Bingo to keep their attention while demonstrating the search tools. I also updated the PS 110 Research Guide to distribute after the class via email: https://guides.library.scranton.edu/ps110.

Classroom Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) – at least one, no more than three

SLO 1: As a result of this information literacy instruction, students will develop keywords to search databases on their topic.

SLO 2: As a result of this information literacy instruction, students will use Royal Search to identify peer reviewed articles on their topic.

How will you know how students are doing as they work toward meeting these outcomes?

Students will have time in class to complete the handout on developing keywords. I will walk around to talk through their topics and come up with additional phrases. I can ask Dr. Allison for feedback on their assignments and if the articles they submitted met the requirements of the assignment.

Based on your experience teaching this class and any assessment of student work you were able to do, what can you change next time to improve how you teach it? Or, what was successful that you want to be sure to do again the next time you teach it?

I might have them brainstorm their research questions earlier in the session with a partner, then teach the search techniques in the search tools, and then have them execute some of their own searches. I think this might break it up more so that there is more active learning happening.

Information Literacy Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) – at least one, no more than four – this information literacy instruction supports

PLO3: Students will identify the appropriate level of scholarship among publication types (scholarly journals, trade publications, magazines, websites, etc.) in order to critically evaluate the usefulness of the information for their research need.

PLO4: Students will articulate the key elements in their research questions in order to develop and execute a search strategy.

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Narrowing your Research Question and Creating some Search Terms

1) Let's start with a broad research question?

Climate change and social justice

Reframe into a question: How is climate change a social justice issue?

Break your question into specific ideas or concepts:

Who?	What?	What else?
People	Climate change Social Justice	Environment

2) Can you create a new research question from the concepts in the chart:

- ___How does Climate Change impact human rights?_____

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

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3) What is your topic or research question? (Even a broad idea would work at this point)

4) Break your question up into specific ideas or concepts (subjects). These concepts will form the building blocks of your search strategy.

Who?	What?	What else?

Why?

Databases don't like sentences!
Long phrases or sentences will confuse the database and lead to disappointing or NO results.
Pick out the words that indicate the main points of your topic.

5) Conduct a search for your topic in a database of your choosing. What keywords/subject terms do you see appearing in the articles included in your results list? Are there any keywords/terms mentioned that you think are interesting and/or relevant to your assignment? List them below.

6) Create a more sophisticated search by combining your topic with some of the terms from questions 4. Write what you tried down here. **Database Tips:** When searching in databases, you can use **AND** to look for articles that include all terms. You can also use **OR** between keywords to look for similar search terms. Use quotation marks to search for multi-word terms.

Examples: Pollution AND social justice vs. Pollution AND "social justice"
Pollution AND (racism OR discrimination OR diversity)

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7) Utilizing your answers from above and the search strategy you created, locate at least three articles you feel helps support your topic. Write down the following information or copy and paste the citation:

    a. Author
    b. Article Title
    c. Publication
    d. Volume/Issue numbers
    e. Date Published
    f. DOI or URL
    g. CITATION

    a. Author
    b. Article Title
    c. Publication
    d. Volume/Issue numbers
    e. Date Published
    f. DOI or URL
    g. CITATION

    a. Author
    b. Article Title
    c. Publication
    d. Volume/Issue numbers
    e. Date Published
    f. DOI or URL
    g. CITATION

<div align="center">Remember!</div>

- TAKE NOTES – write down what terms you have tried, where they worked, and where they didn't
- You can change your keywords at any time if you aren't getting results that you find relevant.
- Research is an iterative process – try different combinations of terms, use different keywords, see how articles you think are relevant are tagged/described.
- The same search techniques won't yield the same sorts of results in different databases. They all have their own specific vocabulary.
- If you are frustrated try one or more of the following:
  - Walk away - take a short break and come back to things a little while later
  - Share your topic with a peer – maybe they could think of some key terms or subject terms you hadn't thought of.
  - Meet with a librarian! Stop by Research Services on the 2nd floor of the Library or us the Ask a Librarian Chat for help.