

WML Information Literacy Instruction Assessment 2020-21
Classroom Activity Report – Individual

Faculty Librarian: Ian O'Hara

Semester: Spring 2021

Course Number and Name: OT 250: Scientific Writing & Information Literacy in OT (EP)

Course Instructor (Last Name): Nastasi

Date(s) of Information Literacy Instruction: 2/5/2021

Time(s) of Information Literacy Instruction: 9:00-9:50am

Location: Zoom

Number of Students Registered in Course: 18

Summary of research assignment or task

In OT 250 students are tasked with writing an in-depth literature review on a pertinent topic within the field of occupational therapy. They are required to utilize library resources to locate appropriate scholarly material on their given topic. Within their literature review they are asked to summarize major contributions of significant studies and articles referring back to the focus of their paper. Students are also required to point out gaps in research, inconsistencies in theory and findings, and areas or issues pertinent to future study.

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

SLO 1: As a result of this information literacy instruction, students will be made aware of, be able to locate, and utilize sources of information related to occupational therapy.

SLO 2: As a result of this information literacy instruction, students will understand how to formulate an effective database search string from a given research question.

SLO 3: As a result of this information literacy instruction, students will be able to differentiate between different types of research studies encountered in the literature found in database searches.

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

This was the first semester this course has been offered. I would typically structure this instruction period as a series of mini-lectures followed by active learning activities, which are

then followed by discussions of those activities in which the concepts addressed in the activities are reviewed again. However, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this class session was conducted via Zoom. I reconfigured my lesson in order to structure the entire lesson as the typical research process a student would go through in this course, based on a topic related to OT that I chose. I essentially asked for student input throughout the entire process of researching this chosen topic, from deriving a keyword search string from a research question, to choosing databases within which to search, and even on how to access articles when the PDF files are not immediately available within the specific database we are searching in. This allowed me to assess what students knew about the research process as the lesson flowed forward based on their input at each step of researching our class topic. This process allowed me to remediate areas where it was clear students were lacking in either knowledge or experience of the research process at our institution.

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?

The most challenging aspect of structuring this lesson was managing the breadth of material that needs to be covered in order to ensure that students would be successful in completing their research and literature review assignment. This class marks a shift in the OT curriculum: this course replaces a similar course that was previously taught in the junior year to OT students, but this new OT 250 course is taught to sophomore students. I was unsure at what level students would be related to their research abilities at the sophomore level as opposed to where they were when I taught a similar information literacy instruction session related to a similar assignment at the junior level. This made this session an excellent learning experience related to meeting these sophomore level students at their skill level when they arrive in this course. Teaching this first group of sections of this course has provided valuable insight into future planning of instruction and the specific skill set required for students enrolling in this course in future semesters. This initial instruction was successful in my view, but perhaps in the future specific areas of the research process that sophomore students may be inexperienced in can be more heavily emphasized for clarity.

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

PLO2: Students will gain insight and understanding about diverse sources of information in order to evaluate and use resources appropriately for their information needs.

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.