Information Literacy "Non-Conference" BCIT Library

http://libguides.bcit.ca/noncon

How marking information literacy assignments changed my approach to the teaching of information literacy

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Presentation Outline

- Introduction
- Articulation Requirements
- History of the InfoLit Assignment
- What I Noticed When Marking
- What I've changed so far
- My Top Recommendations to Colleagues

Introduction

- **10 years as a librarian at Yukon College**
  - **7 years as the InfoLit Librarian**
- **Then, ran our Teaching & Learning Centre (which no longer exists)**
- **Now, college prep Instructor**
  - **English**
  - **Computers**

ABE English Learning Outcomes for Articulation in BC

- "Evaluate argument for validity, reliability, currency, and objectivity."
- "Summarize, make inferences, draw conclusions, and critically evaluate."
- "Evaluate the influences, writing style, and background of particular authors in order to understand their writings."
- "Use a variety of strategies and sources to gather and evaluate information, including print sources, library resources, and the internet."
- "Gather, evaluate, synthesis, and organize information into a research paper or report of approximately 1500 words using an appropriate documentation style (e.g. APA, MLA, etc.)"

History of the InfoLit Research Assignment
English 050 = Worth 15%

Pre-2003 Research Assignment

Assorted collection of short assignments demonstrating having used the library

- No required elements
- Topic-focused
- Book reports
- Photocopies of articles and report of retrieval process
- Brief write-up about topic
  - Very much like an Encyclopedia entry
- Simple marking
  - Complete/Not complete
  - No demonstration of critical reading
  - No computer use

Post-2003 Research Assignment

One binder organizing all the research collected as if the student was to write the research paper

- Required library worksheets
- Thesis-focused
- Photocopies of book title pages
- Print-outs of articles
- Brief write-up analyzing research found and research process
  - Very much like a work report to a supervisor
- More complex marking
  - Complete/Not Complete
  - Some demonstration of critical reading
  - Some computer use

InfoLit	What I Noticed When Marking
Find	• **Library teaching effective** • **Worksheets particularly helpful** • **Even better if rubric provided**

Evaluate	• **Superficial improvement in critical thinking and reading**
	   • **Should I use it? Yes/No**
	• **Gaps in knowledge:**
	   • **Analysis and Synthesis techniques**
	   • **Writing Research Notes**

Use	• **Students are learning documentation styles well**
	• **BUT Research Essays look like Hostage Situations**
	   • **"I found all these sources, now give me the marks!"**
	• **Gaps in knowledge:**
	   • **Time and Project management**
	   • **Systematic literature review**
	   • **Writing the narrative about the research conversation**

Knowledge Gaps	What I've Changed so far on the InfoLit Assignment
Writing Research Notes	• **Sources Checklist worksheet** • **Research Notes worksheet**
Time and Project Management	• **One-week Time Map worksheet** • **Gantt Chart worksheet** • **Cover Letter as outlet for self-reflections**

Preventing Hostage Situations	• **Teaching emphasizes integrating sources into writing**
	    • **Instead of replacing writing with sources**
	• **Marking done in phases, with these 3 worksheets completed before library teaching:**
	    • **Generating a Thesis Statement**
	    • **Mindmapping the Essay**
	    • **Recording your Research Strategy**

Analysis & Synthesis Techniques	• **Separate Reading Response Rubric** • **Marking Rubric far more complex** • **Greater details given for expectations**

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My Top 3 Recommendations to Colleagues

1. Find ways to head off the Hostage Situations.

2. Structure library worksheets and library teaching to ladder all the way up to writing theses.

3. Introduce Teaching Faculty to the value of a project management-type assignment to complement Research Essays.

The End

Thank you for your time!
Have questions?
Would like to discuss or collaborate?

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