

# Faculty Research Session Fall 2011

## Syllabi Component for Electronic/Information Literacy Assignment

“Every course must have an information literacy assignment which requires the student to access information electronically, evaluate the information for its use in the assignment and comply with the ethical and legal standards of using published information (i.e., appropriate use of APA or MLA documentation).”

## Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education

The following standards are defined by the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL):

The information literate student:

1. determines the nature and extent of the information needed. (KNOW)
2. accesses needed information effectively and efficiently. (ACCESS)
3. evaluates information and its sources critically and incorporates selected information into his or her knowledge base and value system. (EVALUATE)
4. individually or as a member of a group, uses information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose. (USE)
5. understands many of the ethical, legal and socio-economic issues surrounding information and information technology. (ETHICAL/LLEGAL)

## Web vs. Subscription Databases

### Web

Quick and easy searching

Broad sweep of information openly available

Sources sometimes unknown or open to question

Scholarly literature may only be available for a fee

Ads and links for profit can distract users

Time can be wasted viewing irrelevant websites or judging incomplete or misleading information

### Research Databases

Reliable for quality, relevant, reviewed content, which is updated regularly

Sources include newspaper, magazine, and journal articles, maps, graphics, video and audio clips, speeches, primary sources, pamphlets, and entries from reference books

Free searching to students 24/7 from anywhere with Internet access

Keyword and/or subject searching is not difficult

Citation information is given

## Library Services Website

### Login

Students and staff log on to campus computers using their Wor-Wic username and password. Off campus the login is also needed for accessing the research databases.

### Documents

Remind students that documents saved to computers in the centers on campus will be deleted each time the computer is shut down; they need to save documents to a USB flash drive, temporarily save to the desktop and email it to themselves as an attachment, and/or use a web-based document storage site.

### Handouts

Citing Sources (APA and MLA) – based on 6<sup>th</sup> ed. of APA manual and 7<sup>th</sup> ed. of MLA

(Note: Citations in research databases are very helpful but not always accurate.)

Help Guides

Research Guides

(over)

## Print Policy

Papercut print management software is used to help reduce waste and control printing. Students' quota is **120** pages per week, maximum document size 40 pages, no multiple copies; 10 copies per guest login.

## **Research Database Sample Searches** (select a few; look at "cite this" and "print" options)

Notes: No upper case letters needed when searching; quotation marks help in some databases and not in others; "and" helps in some and not in others); subject listing is a good place to start.

### *ProQuest Central* (huge, contains many databases)

1. Find a research study on bipolar disorder (use search terms "bipolar disorder and study;" look for terms like Methods and Materials, Results, Discussion, etc.)
2. Find 2009 total sales and income for Citigroup, Inc. (use Hoovers Company Records)

### *Credo Reference* (reference books only; note: extra psychology and criminal justice content has been added)

1. bipolar disorder (can limit to psychology on left or when you start the search)
2. quotes from Langston Hughes (select quotation on left or when you start the search))

### *Global Issues in Context* (can browse issues and topics or type in specific search)

Gulf of Mexico oil spill (note videos, images, and podcasts; scroll down for Global Viewpoints, Reference, etc.)

### *Academic Search Complete*

Community colleges and budget cuts (tip: after selecting print option, select APA or MLA, and citation will print out on first page of article)

### *Health & Wellness Resource Center*

Pneumonia (note Books & Fact Sheets, Magazines & Journals, etc.)

## **Helpful Tips**

Be specific in your expectations for sources (websites, research database, etc.); do a little preliminary research yourself. Sometimes a website is a better source to use than a database; for example, National Library of Medicine and National Institutes of Health's website, [medlineplus.gov](http://medlineplus.gov), is an excellent source for health topics.

Students may not be successful in their research database searching because they're looking in the wrong place; some databases have reference book content, some have scholarly journal content, etc. Reference book articles are much better for broad, overview content, and, scholarly journal articles are better for scientific, research studies.

Research Databases by Subject link provides descriptions of database content.

See Research Database Tips under Help Guides; these are emailed to faculty bimonthly and then added to our webpage.

These are good for current issues and argumentative topics:

*Gale Opposing Viewpoints in Context* (formerly *Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center*)

*Global Issues in Context*

*GREENR*

*Points of View Reference Center*

*SIRS Issues Researcher*

Some students are more successful when using a smaller more specialized database such as *ProQuest Psychology Journals*, *ProQuest Social Science Journals*, or *ProQuest Education Journals*.

## **Questions**