TOO MUCH INFORMATION

Helping Students Effectively Deal with Information Overload.

Cyndi Brandenburg, Sarah Faye Cohen, and Kelly Jane Thomas
Champlain College, Burlington, Vermont
What is Champlain’s CORE?


http://www.flickr.com/photos/imagemd/827470717/
What Is the INQUIRY METHOD?
What is Information Literacy?

The Textbook Definition:

“Information literacy is a set of abilities requiring individuals to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information.” Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education. American Library Association. 2006. http://www.ala.org/acrl/ilcomstan.html
At Champlain...a focus on applicability

- “Not using research to defend your point of view but using research to find the question you want to ask.”
- “Knowing how to find the right information for the right situation at the right time”.
- “It’s not just about the databases.”
- “Try, try, and try again.”
Both IL and the Curriculum ask students to...

Ask questions
Consider the context of their question
Consider options and alternatives
Construct answers, not just find them.
What does that look like in our classrooms?

Let’s have some examples....
Student-centered exercise to:

- Practice listening, reflecting and writing;
- Explore subjects and opinions that really matter to them;
- Evaluate sources of information which engage their interest;
- Hear and express multiple points of view about those subjects;
- Discover a personal stake in issues that affect them;
- Identify audience and purpose as key elements in constructing a position on those issues.

http://www.flickr.com/photos/ari/377681704/
Goals and Expectations

- Where do you get information?
- What do you expect the information you use to be?
- What do you expect the information you use to do for you?
- The fortitude to meet those goals and expectations
Annotated Bibliography

Concepts of Community: COR120

- Making progress towards completing a larger assignment
- Finding and summarizing sources that matter
- Sharing (and explaining) information with others who have similar goals
- Expanding knowledge through conversation

Strategies for Conducting Meaningful Research

http://www.flickr.com/photos/jra/503392096/
How is IL used by students to deal with information every day?
By fostering curiosity and empowering them to know

http://www.flickr.com/photos/dullhunk/202872717/
Information comes from a lot of different places

http://www.flickr.com/photos/juhansonin/407874864/
By creating a tool kit of questions and processes:

- What do I need to know to approach this?
- To answer this?
- To question this?

By getting ready for the real world

- Knowing how to ask the right questions and look for right information makes them ready for the real world...
At Work...

http://www.flickr.com/photos/mattwright/242486104/
At home...

http://www.flickr.com/photos/davesag/8696297/
Out in the world...

http://www.flickr.com/photos/risayv/2155764585/
Or around the dinner table...

http://www.flickr.com/photos/wader/196774592/
they can do anything…

…the information is there.
New Ideas We are Pioneering in the Second Year

- Art of the Day,
- What’s New(s) in Science,
- Annotated Timeline,
- Class Blogs,
- “Is Google Making Us Stupid?”
Where do you go from here?

- Contact an Information Literacy Librarian at your institution
- Share your process: what is it like for you to deal with information, how do you put ideas together.
For more information...

- Visit our wiki for resources, sample assignment, or ways to contact us.

- [http://toomuchinfo.pbwiki.com](http://toomuchinfo.pbwiki.com)