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KU LIBRARIES – INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES GUIDE

Information Literacy and Collaborative Learning

Information skills instruction can easily be integrated into a collaborative learning environment. Here are some sample approaches that you might use to include well-defined information literacy learning objectives into your course while also making use of collaborative learning.

Additional examples of collaborative learning strategies can be found in: Barkley, E. F., Cross, K. P., & Major, C. H. (2005). *Collaborative learning techniques: A handbook for college faculty*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

If you would like to discuss other ways in which you can incorporate collaborative information skills instruction into your course, please contact Tami Albin, Interim Head of Instructional Services at 785-864-8926 <albin@ku.edu>

Think-Pair-Share

Following instruction in how to critically evaluate Web sites for their suitability for use in academic research, have students independently apply the “Guidelines for Evaluating Web Sites” to sample resources in your field or relevant to the assignment at hand.

Alternative: Following instruction in how to search the Web using scholarly portals (e.g., Google Scholar, Voice of the Shuttle), have student pairs search for information relevant to their research topic using portals vs. open search engines (e.g., Yahoo) and compare the quality of the results.

Jigsaw

Following instruction in how to search library databases relevant to your field as well as general purpose and interdisciplinary databases and/or the World Wide Web, have students form “expert groups” on selected topics with a specific direction to identify how useful various information access points were to developing expertise.

Alternative: Develop expert groups around information management issues relevant to your course or field (e.g., appropriate use of digital images in an Art History course; electronic communication policies in a Communication Studies course; privacy protection in a Public Administration course).

Case Study

Following discussion of the ways in which information is created and disseminated in your field, have students review cases that explore issues such as scholarly communication, appropriate use of resources, or challenges created by the online environment. Examples might include a case study on public debate over installing Internet filters in the local public library (Public Administration), government access to personal information under the USA PATRIOT Act (Political Science), or how to deal with “cut-and paste plagiarism” in the K-12 environment (Teacher Education).

Dialogue Journal

Have students keep a “research log” through the course of the semester in which they discuss their approach to issues such as identifying a research question, selecting the appropriate means of locating information relevant to that question, evaluating information resources for their applicability to the question, etc.