TEACHING INFORMATION LITERACY: A PERFORMANCE BASED CYCLE

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Basic Background Facts

University of North Texas

- Core curriculum = lists of electives
- Required courses include:
  - Basic U.S. History
  - Political Science
  - Freshmen English (1310 & 1320)
Basic Background Facts

- English Library Instruction Sessions
  - Average about 90 sessions per academic year
  - Seven years of successful collaboration between the Libraries and the English department
Basic Background Facts

- 499 students tested in Fall 2005 and Spring 2006
- 76 students tested in Spring 2007
- Total of 575 students tested
Information Literacy

- to “recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information.” American Library Association
- “students must be able to use technology to learn content and skills – so that they know how to learn, think critically, solve problems, use information, communicate, innovate, and collaborate.” EDUCAUSE Center for Applied Research
Performance Cycle of Information Literacy

- Active Teaching
- Active Practice
- Active Learning
- Active Assessment
Active Teaching, Learning, & Assessing

- Active process of discovery
- Information literacy skills are performance task oriented
- Navigation is a central component
- Actively engaged with the information
- Assessment must be performance based to evaluate information literacy skills
Student Navigation Skills

- 94.7% of students report using online library resources an average of once a month
- 81.6% of students report using online social networking daily
- Assumed students had good navigation skills
- Results from our study contradicted these assumptions
Student Navigation Skills

What we should show.

What we show in class.

What we should show.
Library Instruction Software for Assessment (LISA)

From the UNT Libraries’ homepage, find the Webpage that has help from a librarian.
Results – Ask a Librarian

![Bar chart showing pretest and post-test scores for Round 1 and Round 2.]

- **Round 1**
  - Pretest: 68.04
  - Post-test: 58.56

- **Round 2**
  - Pretest: 36.8
  - Post-test: 86.8
Student Searching Skills

- 40.3% of freshmen rate themselves as excellent or very good at using online library resources
- 3% of the students in our study were able to perform a successful subject search in the catalog
- Only 11% were successful after instruction
Perform a subject search for Robert Frost in the library catalog.
Adding Active Learning

- In initial testing, students were following along with the librarian on their own computers while the librarian modeled proper searching techniques.
- Students were not engaged
- Added a simple worksheet to increase engagement with the information
Results – Subject Searching

Round 1
Round 2

11
38

Post-test
Pretest
Active Assessment

- Must be performance-based
- Surveys are useful for attitudinal measurements
- Surveys are not useful for performance-based measurements
- Performance-based assessments require students to demonstrate what they actually know rather than what they think they know
Performance Cycle of Information Literacy

Active Teaching

Active Assessment

Active Practice

Active Learning
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