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Information Literacy in the “Pathway to Success”

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Information Literacy in the “Pathway to Success”

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What we’ll cover...

• What is information literacy (IL)?

• What do we know about IL and college student success?

• What is happening at other colleges?

• What can Indiana State do?
What is IL?

- Habit of mind, way of thinking
- Skills and competencies
- Ability to use information to learn
What is IL?

- Ability to recognize when need info
- Formulate good questions
- Know best sources to use & how to search for info
- Ability to make decisions, solve problems based on credible info
- Ability to communicate info appropriately to intended audience

- *Varies according to discipline and context*
Speaking the same language…

What is IL?

Lifelong Learning
Info Fluency

Informed Learning
Competitive Intelligence

Critical Thinking
Problem solving

Guided Inquiry
Evidence Based Practice

Media-
Digital-Health-
Financial, etc.
Literacy

Information Literacy
Information literate people are those who have learned how to learn. They know how to learn because they know how knowledge is organized, how to find information, and how to use information...They can always find the information needed for any task or decision at hand.

ALA 1989
Complex, many factors contribute, personal and organizational
Student Success

• Many “success” indicators
  • Graduation rate
  • Retention rate
  • Course completion success
  • GPA
  • Achievement
  • Job and salary, workforce preparedness
  • Career success
  • Personal, college, and job satisfaction
  • Critical thinking, problem-solving, lifelong learning preparedness
Why is student success important?

- Costs to students - tuition, loss of time in workforce or grad school
- Costs to institutions - reputation, rankings, resources needed
- Loss of cohort
- Need for prepared workforce, engaged citizenry, lifelong learners
What Affects Student Success?

- Academic and social integration
- Institutional commitment to the goal of college graduation
- Connections with institution and its people
- Inclusive and affirming institutions
What Affects Student Success?

- High expectations
- Student-centered learning
- Out-of-classroom learning experiences
- Teaching quality
What Affects Student Success?

- “High-impact educational practices”
  - 1st-year seminars & experiences
  - Common intellectual experiences (book reads)
  - Learning communities
  - Writing-intensive courses
  - Collaborative projects
  - Undergrad research
  - Diversity/global learning
  - Community-based learning
  - Internships
  - Capstone projects
What Affects Student Success?

• Inform about school resources
• Time management, study skills
• Tutoring
• Remediation and bridge programs
• Financial assistance
• Mentoring
IL and Student Success

W. Wayne Booker’s story
2E.2 Students are offered guidance in the **ethical use of information** resources.

3B.3 Every degree program offered by the institution engages students in **collecting, analyzing, and communicating information**; in mastering modes of inquiry or creative work; and in developing **skills adaptable** to changing environments.

3D.5 The institution provides to students guidance in the **effective use of research and information resources**.

Also, program accreditations...
IL and Student Success

• Faculty believe IL is important
  (Saunders; Weiner)

• Relationship between library instruction and retention, GPA
  (Soria, et al.; Vance, et al.; Cox & Jantti; Wong and Cmor)
IL and Student Success

- IL = ability to use information to learn
- What are libraries and librarians?
- Libraries are places to learn outside the classroom
Librarians are educators, collaborators and partners in learning...

- An “underused educational resource” (Kuh et al.)

- 2013 ISU NSSE—“institution emphasizing using learning support services” was an “area of concern”
IL and Student Success

- Libraries are places to use information to learn outside of classroom
- Study space, collaborative learning spaces, technology
- Libraries participate in orientations, campus tours
- Participate in summer “bridge” programs
IL and Student Success

- Librarians assess student IL needs and artifacts
- Work with 1st year, transfer, at-risk, international students
- Embed in courses
IL and Student Success

- Individual research consultations
- Academic and social support for library student employees
- Scholarships for library student employees
IL and Student Success

- Links to tutorials, resource lists for courses
- Librarians consult on IL aspects of courses
- Librarians teach scholarly communication, specific literacies (data, GIS, financial, health)
- Undergrad research programs
- Distance learning/online programs, courses
More than 30 institutions have “Quality Enhancement Plans” that focus solely on IL.

All include assessment plans.
IL and Student Success

Purdue

- Within last 5 years
- IL = informed learning = learning
- Librarians = educators = IL specialists
- Core curriculum includes IL
- Librarians on key campus committees
IL and Student Success

Instruction Matters:
Purdue Academic Course Transformation

Purdue
IL and Student Success

- Libraries are learning spaces—aactive learning classrooms, new Active Learning Center Building planned
- Campus leaders in data IL
Purdue

- Librarians embedded in courses and teach courses (although est. 20 librarians/40,000 students)
- Librarians participating in “badges” for new outcomes-based Purdue Polytechnic Institute
IL and Student Success

Purdue

- IL courses in business, nursing, nutrition, pharmacy
- Undergraduate research programs
- Librarians are residence hall faculty, subject and program liaisons
IL and Student Success

- Copyright Office
- Purdue University Press
- Journal of Purdue Undergraduate Research
What can Indiana State do?

- Systems thinking—library and librarians are part of the system—how can you involve them?
- Go back to “what affects success” and consider how the library can be involved
- Change your perceptions of what libraries are and librarians do
What can Indiana State do?

- Ask the faculty—do the students demonstrate acceptable competency with IL? (use Weiner faculty survey?)
- Curriculum mapping—is the learning of IL competencies planned when pre-requisites or learning outcomes?
- Progressively integrate IL in courses, programs, expected outcomes, engagement, co-curricular, experiential learning
What can Indiana State do?

- Collaborations between library and student learning initiatives, academic programs, student affairs, alumni office, curriculum committees, individual faculty, co-curricular programs, assessment directors, athletics...
- Train-the-trainer
- Embed librarians
Obstacles

- IL in High School:
- Decreased funding for school library media specialists, school libraries
- Teacher prep programs don’t teach teachers how to teach IL
- Need for remediation in college (see IL courses and tutorials)

*Project Information Literacy -- Freshman Study*
Obstacles

- Traditional perceptions of libraries, librarian roles, functions, abilities
What If:
No IL in Student Success

• Growing body of studies on workforce preparedness
• Students graduate from college unprepared for information environment
• 2015 AACU study:
  • Employers place greatest value on skills and knowledge that cut across all majors
What If:

No IL in Student Success

• Most important learning outcomes are related to IL:
  • Written and oral communication skills
  • Teamwork
  • Ethical decision-making
  • Critical thinking
What If:
No IL in Student Success

- Also important:
  - Capacities to problem solve
  - Locate and evaluate information from multiple sources
  - Innovate
  - Stay current with technologies
What If: No IL in Student Success

• Both employers and college students believe important:
  • Senior thesis/project demonstrating knowledge, research, problem-solving, communication skills
  • Multiple courses involving significant writing
  • Research project done collaboratively with peers
  • Service-learning project with community organizations

• All involve IL
**What If:**

No IL in Student Success

- Medical decision-making
- Financial decision-making
- Involved citizenship
- Lifelong learning
Conclusion… or the Beginning?

How can you proceed?


Hart Research Associates. 2015. Falling short? *College learning and career success: Selected findings from online surveys of employers and college students*.

References


NSSE Topical Module: Experiences with information literacy


Thank you!

Questions and comments?