

Information Literacy within the Disciplines

Question: Are library-developed rubrics a feasible and effective method for faculty members to assess the information literacy skills of their students?

Research and Goal Objectives

Conduct a pilot program to develop rubrics which academic departments can use to assess the information literacy skills of their students. The library will provide initial drafts of rubrics to academic departments and adapt them in collaboration with teaching faculty. Individual faculty or departments will then be able to analyze their students' work according to a tested and standard format.

Methodology

Develop rubrics for two capstone classes, one in the physical sciences and one in the social sciences. The rubrics will be used to assess the research and information literacy skills the students display in their papers, projects, or portfolios, as judged by benchmarks appropriate for the major. A graduate student with expertise in this area, from the program of Research and Evaluation Methodology in the Psychology Department or in the College of Education, will be hired to assist with determining the validity of the rubrics and developing a cost effectiveness measure of using the rubrics.

Validity and Cost Effectiveness:

Key elements of the project are to determine the validity of the rubrics and develop a cost effectiveness measure of using the rubrics.

We need to make sure the rubrics are a valid test of students' information literacy skills, so the data can be used by departments for internal assessment, as well as for accreditation assessment requirements. Determining validity of the rubrics will involve testing the questions in the rubrics and also determining the number of portfolios or other examples of students' work that each department will need to collect and analyze in order to create a statistically significant test.

Cost effectiveness will be determined by identifying the cost to departments to assess the student projects, including expenses associated with developing a database to store information, running analyses, and training and paying the individuals (undergraduate or graduate students) who will analyze the students' work and complete the rubrics. A graduate student with specialty and/or training in this area will be hired in summer 2007.

Challenges:

- Faculty involvement
- Capstone assignment in chemistry
- Measurable objectives/criteria in the rubrics

Timeline:

Winter/Spring '07	Spring '07	Summer '07	Fall '07	Spring '08
Research issues with developing rubrics and conduct a literature review on the use and design of rubrics in libraries and other social science fields.	Adapt and create information literacy benchmarks for the disciplines and develop a plan to determine the validity of the rubrics and develop a cost effectiveness measure of using the rubrics.	Hire graduate student to develop a plan to assist with determining the validity of the rubrics and developing a cost effectiveness measure of using the rubrics.	Use rubrics to assess actual student projects in Chemistry 6760 (Principles of Bioenergetics) and Psychology 3500 (Scientific Thinking & Methods in Psychology) and/or Psychology 2950 (Orientation to Psychology). Pilot project will be completed by December 2008.	Conduct analysis and make recommendation during spring semester 2008.