Cultivating Career Literacy: Facilitating the Most Important Research Project Your Students Will Ever Face

Kristin Stout  
*Armstrong Atlantic State University, GA*

Barbara Macke  
*University of Cincinnati, OH*

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Kristin Stout
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Georgia Conference on Information Literacy, September 26, 2009
Unemployment Rates by State, June 2009
from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (bls.gov)

…not a pretty picture
“After a string of golden recruiting years, employers plan to hire 22% fewer graduates...” (Nat’l Assn. of Colleges and Employers)

“Now students are being forced to cast a wider net. Considering they will change jobs three times on average within five years of graduation, they may someday be grateful they developed good job-search skills now.” (Sheila Curran, former head, career services, Duke Univ.)

“COLLEGE GRADS FACE WORST JOB MARKET IN YEARS”

Savannah Morning New, April 2, 2009
The Career Search IS Research!

“Eventually, I’d like to get into CEOing.”
The advantages of using the Career Search to teach Research Skills

- Requires students to develop basic research skills and utilize a variety of resources
- Is naturally cross-disciplinary
- Connects the community of scholarly researchers to the community of ‘real world’ researchers.
- Can impact scholarly choices
- Provides the opportunity for developing presentation skills
...Restated as Learning Objectives

- Students will demonstrate basic research skills and use a variety of resources.
- Students will recognize that different disciplines employ different types of research strategies and resources.
- Students will describe the scholarly research process and recognize it as a useful model for solving ‘real world’ problems (What do I know? What do I need to know? How will I find out?).
- Students will practice presentation skills.
“We’ve been in the job-search business for decades”
–Paul LeClerc, Pres., New York Public Library

(“It Has Computers, Gives Advice and Is Free.”
What Libraries & Librarians DO...

- Make career resources available

- Provide computers with word processing, Internet, and e-mail access for the purpose of job searching and applying for jobs

- Offer instruction and support to students both directly at the individual level and indirectly by supporting career-related activities sponsored by other instructors, academic departments, and career services
...And What Libraries & Librarians Should NOT DO

- Write or edit resumes or cover letters
- Give specific career advice
University of Cincinnati Composition 101

- INTENDED OCCUPATION?
- NATURE OF THE WORK?
- TYPICAL WORKING CONDITIONS?
- SALARY SCALE? FOR OHIO? FOR OTHER STATES?
- NECESSARY EDUCATION?
- JOB OUTLOOK?
- PROFESSIONAL & SCHOLARLY JOURNALS?
- TYPICAL DISCOURSE?

Readings: Working (Terkel), Gig (Bowe, Bowe & Streeter), Some Lessons from the Assembly Line (Braaksma), Excerpts from Nickel and Dimed…
Collaborative Possibilities

Introductory Core Courses  Academic Depts.
Other Local Schools  Career Services

Examples

ProjectSUCCESS Summer Camp
Collaboration with the Dept. of Nursing & local high schools
http://delicious.com/kristinAASUlibrarian/ProjectSUCCESS

Don’t Be a Fool! Be Career–Minded and Resume–Ready! (April Fool’s Day theme)
Collaboration with the Honors Program & the Office of Career Services
http://delicious.com/kristinAASUlibrarian/Career–Resume
List of Career Resources

http://delicious.com/kristinAASUlibrarian/bundle:CultivatingCareerLiteracy