Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy

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Oct 4th, 11:00 AM - 12:45 PM

Just Google It-Bringing Students’ Information Literacy to the Composition Classroom

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Just Google It

Bringing Students’ Information Literacy to the Composition Classroom

Susanna Coleman
Auburn University Montgomery
Panel 34 – Saturday – 11:00-12:30
Introduction

• Students gain information literacy through daily digital activities:
  • Text messages – cell phones, AIM, ICQ, MSN
  • Search engines – Google, Yahoo
  • Wikis – Wikipedia, Wikia
  • Social networking – Facebook, MySpace
  • Virtual pet sites – Neopets, Subeta

• Teach students to locate, evaluate, and utilize information
Introduction

• May neglect these existing skills in the classroom

• Instead, help students transfer existing skills to research-based writing courses:
  • Text messaging leads to keywording
  • Searching the Internet leads to database searching
Text Messaging

Internet skill: text messaging

Information literacy skill: keywording

• Students text using as few words as possible
• Choose to include only most important words— the *keywords*
Text Messaging - Application

• Ask students to imagine “texting” research topic
• Words they choose to include are *keywords*
• Keywording = picking out words most important to topic
Text Messaging - Problems

- “Chat speak” abbreviations/alternate spellings
  - “u” for “you"
  - “thru” for “through”
  - “ppl” for “people,” etc.

- Remind students to avoid “shortcuts” when keywording
Web Searching

Internet skill: using search engines
Information literacy skill: searching databases

• Students already familiar with
  • Submitting a search query
  • Layout and elements found on database search pages
Web Searching

Google Advanced Search

- Use the form below and your advanced search will appear here.

- Find web pages that have...
  - all these words:
  - this exact wording or phrase:
  - one or more of these words:

- But don’t show pages that have...
  - any of these unwanted words:

- Need more tools?
  - Results per page: 10 results
  - Language: any language
  - File type: any format
  - Search within a site or domain: e.g. youtube.com, edu

- Date, usage rights, numeric range, and more

- Advanced Search

Academic Search Premier

- Search modes
  - Boolean/Phrase
  - Find all my search terms
  - Find any of my search terms
  - SmartText

- Search within the full text of the articles

- Search Options
  - Full Text
  - Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals
  - References Available
  - Published Date from

- Search History/Alerts

- Preferences

- Reset

Topic-specific search engines from Google:
- Google Book Search
- Apple
- U.S. Government
Web Searching - Application

• Ask students to find song lyrics online using only title and artist
  • Query will consist of song title, artist, and “lyrics”: viva la vida, coldplay, and lyrics

• Work, author, topic strategy also works for academic searches:
  • inconvenient truth, gore, and climate change
  • everyday use, walker, and theme
Web Searching - Problems

• Boolean operators no longer used in search engines
  • Instruct students how to duplicate internet search queries with operators:
    • Google query: *inconvenient truth* gore *climate change*
    • Database query: “*inconvenient truth*” AND gore AND “*climate change*”

• Differences among database layouts
Web Searching - Problems
Conclusion

- Most curricular information literacy skills have extracurricular equivalent
- Explain skills in terms of equivalents to help students understand how to locate, evaluate, and use information