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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

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Publication

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Published Date from Month: Year:

to Month: Year:

Publication Type

- Periodical
- Newspaper
- Book



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

International Bibliography

lecture, important du livre du roman

Ch ML

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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