Ways to Incorporate Information Literacy into Your Course

Information literacy involves numerous skills and abilities, not just conducting research to write papers. More importantly, information literacy skills translate into workplace competencies.

“...In the workplace sector learning has both formal and informal qualities and involves accessing information that is not only explicit and rule bound, but also information that is tacit and nuanced in the socio-cultural, historical and material features of the site.” (Lloyd, 2010, p. 104)

In other words, information literacy skills emphasize critical and analytical thinking that is needed for creating training manuals, understanding regulations, implementing assessment practices, and/or writing strategic plans. Information literacy skills focus on understanding how information is created, evaluated, and shared.

There are many ways to incorporate information literacy into course assignments that do not involve in-depth research. Here are 3 easy ways to incorporate information literacy skills into your course:

1. Have students find market research reports in Business Source Premier. Discuss how this information can be used by an organization.
2. Ask students to browse the New York Times or Wall Street Journal for current issues in the news. Alternatively, have students subscribe to the SMLR Net Listserv to obtain current news stories. Apply that news story to a concept being covered in class.
3. Use the Occupational Outlook Handbook to find information about different job sectors. What is the work environment like? What is the projected outlook for that job?

Information literacy assignments introduce resources and research techniques to students that they will be able to utilize in their future workplace and to foster lifelong learning. Contact Julie Peters to schedule an information literacy session or for more information: jpeters@smlr.rutgers.edu