

Miami University Libraries

Teaching Evaluation – Instructional Assessment Report

Librarian Instructor Jenny Presnell

Date of Session September 22, 2010 and October 25, 2010

Session Details (Class, Professor) Introduction to Women's Studies, Yu-Fang Cho. Two sessions

Learning Objectives

1. Understand how information access has changed and how different voices and perspectives are discovered.
2. Understand the information cycle and what types of information are produced when and for what purposes (news reports to academic journals/research studies)
3. Identify types of sources for research.
4. Use appropriate indexes to find appropriate resources, including selecting the best specialized index for their topic.

Readings, Handouts, other Materials used in the Session

Articles that are compared:

Kiltcbay, Baris, and Mutlu Binark. Consumer Culture, Islam and the Politics of Lifestyle. *European Journal of Communication* 17(4):495-511.

Veil. *Time Magazine*. June 2006, 62-3.

Bearak, Barry. Behind the Veil, a Muslim Feminist. *New York Times*. August 26, 2000. A 4 (Proquest Historical Newspapers, The New York Times, accessed September 2, 2008).

Al-Jadda, Souheila. A Veil Doesn't Mean Oppressed. *USA Today*, June 22, 2006 ,13A. (Lexis Nexis Academic, accessed September 2, 2008)

Hijab. *Wikipedia*. (<http://en.wikepeida.org/wiki/Hijab>, accessed September 2, 2008).

Brief Narrative Description of Session

The first session consists of looking at a video short EPIC 2015 by Robin Sloan and Matt Thompson (in youtube.com and other places). We discuss issues such as: what happens to information when it is personalized; how machines (bots) search for your information; how traditional newspapers work; how they discover information that is different and from different perspectives than their own; how this new information includes new voices, etc. Then we look at a short clip on the information cycle, talk about how information travels, and do a comparison exercise looking at a journal article, magazine article, and Wikipedia page. We discuss in class the differences of these three, how they fit into the information cycle, how to use Wikipedia and its pitfalls, and the purpose of a research article.

[Evaluation was done after the first session.]

The second session is more bibliographic in nature. Using the topic of Muslim women's rights we explore the catalog and indexes (Gender Studies and Genderwatch) using varied searches, Boolean logic, truncation and facet searching (for instance Muslim Women Rights gives you different results than Islam Women Rights, we talk about associated terms such as civil liberties, voting, feminism to reflect similar concepts.) We also discuss how to find organization documents and policy papers on the Internet and in our documents collections (namely the United Nations). Looking at some of these documents, we talk about author/organization perspective.

Assessment Method Utilized

One-minute paper. Questions.

1. Remembering the Epic Movie & our class discussion, briefly talk about one idea concerning the customization of information & access to different viewpoints.
2. List one characteristic of a journal article
3. What do you want to know about library research

Summary of Assessment Results

Watching the movie, EPIC 2015, awakens students to how we used to gather news and understand the issues compared to today and to what might come. This class had a lively discussion and I believe, really understand the problems and the value of how information is produced today. Many of their questions were answered in the session.

Did you meet your learning objectives?

Learning Objective	Exceeded	Met	Did not Meet
1	x		
2		x	
3		x	
4		x	

Reflection on Assessment/Implications for Future Teaching

Dr. Cho and I revamped this session several years ago. The discussion on where and how we get our information has changed is always eye opening for both the students and me. I have thought about dropping the information cycle section because the video I used in the past is no longer available. Each year the struggle is to get students to discuss, as I'm not their regular instructor. This group this year was quite willing to discuss the video.

Evaluation: Responses to One-Minute Paper

Remembering the Epic Movie & our class discussion, briefly talk about one idea concerning the customization of information & access to different viewpoints.

- One thing that interested & bothered me is how information is tailored to the views and interest of the majority.
- I think that with customization you lose the diversity of news (global & local) that you need to get a full analysis of any happening in the world.
- The video really impressed me and made me think how crazy with technology our world is becoming.
- I was impressed by the way Google could search for specific things so fast & sort them into categories.
- Google news is run 100% by computers... I had no idea! Explains why it might be hard to research for things.
- I'm impressed how all/and any type of media information is/will be available through the internet.

- Information is becoming more technologically driven now that computers, phones, etc. have immediate access to the web. Computers have began taking over the informative role rather than individual opinion or research.
- It is concerning that because information presented by technology has become so customized to each individual, we are usually only exposed to perspectives/events that relate to our lives/beliefs.
- Computers cannot read our minds and generate sources for us just by typing a few words
- Interesting to know that you really can't rely on anything for info. How do you know if its credible? How do you know your getting different viewpoints?
- The way we receive our news has evolved over time. We now have so many ways, due to technology, that we can be informed about what's going on in the world.
- I was impressed by the emergence of Googlezon.
- It's more about the technology. Changes the peoples life dramatically, they could access information easily. The traditional way we got information is kind out of people's mind to some extent.
- How fast technology has changed over time & will continue to change (video) (interesting). It amazes me how easy and instant it is now to receive, send, attain any type of information.
- I think that it would be an invasion of privacy for the internet to track what we view and use that information.
- That computers can catalog all of your purchasing information and offer personalized recommendations.
- Information is much more readily available these days because of all the online news sources. You can find news from all over the world and it is constantly being updated.
- The customization of information is good and bad. You get things back that the computer thinks you want to read but that closes you off to information about other things.
- The importance of Internet access availability. That is where more and more people get news from and you can get information faster through internet sources.
- I think it would be great if a computer could take your past searches, readings, etc and incorporate them into your searches. Your searches would be more accurate and more for you.
- I think technology and its increased use and popularity has been great for this society. For example, Google has helped people immensely. Someday newspaper will become obsolete and search engines will cater everything – news, shopping, ads, etc – to us based on our electronic history.
- The internet can make certain recommendations based on page views and purchases, example – amazon.com
- How much has changed/updated/improved with how we get our news.
- The numerous inventions within its realm that promotes globalization (at least for those with access to computers). Examples include Google, Google maps, Facebook, twitter, amazon, etc. You can view and receive info/news from all around the world.
- We will never heard from the other side or from viewpoints that are “minor”
- I found it interesting that websites may compile news articles for you. I can see this being both useful and detrimental.
- That a “bot” can take what you look for and funnel it all into a “document”. This allows for narrower searching and finding liked/relevant topics.
- Customization isn't necessarily a good thing even though that's where the world is heading. Lots of viewpoints and opinions get left behind and people are less informed.

List one characteristic of a journal article

- A journal article is written by an expert in that field.
- Graphs and statistics found through research.
- Has a work cited
- It has a work cited page
- Author has an academic background in the subject he/she's writing about
- Journal articles are more opinionated
- Journal articles has an author that's highly educated in their discussed field
- The author is well-educated in the field they are analyzing.
- Written by people that have studied the subject the article is about.
- Journal article is written by scholarly people. It has more in-depth information.
- Journal → work cited
- Journal article has references and written by people with PhDs
- Journals have references.
- Journal article – written by someone scholarly
- Journal articles have graphs, and facts (data) in them.
- A journal article is written by professionals in a field of study
- Works cited
- A journal article is written b a scholar who knows a lot about the topic and has usually research the topic themselves.
- A journal article goes through more information in depth. It coves material more thoroughly.
- Journal articles are more reliable sources of information because they're written by someone with education of the subject.
- Written by someone who knows what they are writing about, they are writing about, they have researched it and studied it.
- Journal articles have references.
- They are written by experts in their field of study and have recognizable sources.
- A journal article has one main idea/problem, is not general
- One characteristic of a journal article is the presence of an 'abstract' of an overall summary at the start of it.
- Written by professionals in the field
- A journal article interprets information and includes references
- Journal article has a specific author, usually by someone of that field the topic pertains. It also states facts along with conclusions.
- A journal article take an event or topic, gathers data, and then analyzes that data to produce a new idea, information, or thought about that topic.

Want to know at @ library research

- How to find relevant journal articles.
- How to find the "concept" of an article quickly and search through what you don't need or want.
- How can I narrow down a search
- How to scholarly journals
- How do you know which journal database to look in? There are so many on the MU library website
- How to quickly and easily find sources
- How to find the most valuable info (and reliable)

- How to do a quick, effective search for scholarly journals and information that's accessible
- What peer-reviewed articles mean? Is it better?
- How to find books related to my topic in the library. How to use the computer to find books about my topic.
- How can I receive info from the lib sources on the computer
- The information could help improving paper work.
- I want to learn everything about researching online (not in the library)
- I want to know the easiest ways to find journals pertaining to the information I am seeking
- How to find more reliable unbiased resources
- How to find scholarly articles and a checklist for how to find research (internet, books, etc) for IDEAS – like special collections!
- How to find books. I only really know how to find articles.
- I want to know how you can narrow down what you find when you get so much information.
- I wanted to know how to get the most useful and relevant information for my purpose/subject.
- Nothing
- How to more effectively search Google
- I'm good
- I'd like to know how to find scholarly articles both online and in print
- How to find books more easily on the shelves
- I would like to know where to find credible journal articles that are relevant to the subject I choose to study
- Why do we still have to use physical books, how are they relevant when the info is dated (by at least a year)?
- I cannot think of anything I would like to know about library research
- How to figure out which research site/helpful links provided are best pertaining to my specific topic. (which sources are best for which topics)
- Is it better to look at journal articles online or in person?