

GELMAN NEWS

Workshop on Information Literacy

by **Doug Carroll**
Virginia Campus Library

Information Literacy is a set of abilities requiring individuals to "recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information." (From: American Library Association. *Presidential Committee on Information Literacy. Final Report*. Chicago: American Library Association, 1989.)

This workshop focused on implementing ACRL's Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education. The team explained the individual standards and facilitated discussions, allowing participants become comfortable in understanding and talking about some of the Standards.

1. The information-literate student determines the nature and extent of the information needed.
2. The information-literate student accesses needed information effectively and efficiently.
3. The information-literate student evaluates information and its sources critically, incorporating selected information into his or her

knowledge base and value system.

4. The information-literate student, individually or as a member of a group, uses information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose.
5. The information-literate student understands many of the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information and accesses and uses information ethically and legally.

For a complete copy of the Standards and descriptive steps for achieving them see: <http://www.ala.org/acrl/ilstandardlo.html>

Naturally, the people present were strongly interested in learning about the implementation process elements. Discussions ranged from real life experiences to scenarios that illuminated the methods. One discussion focused on sharing tips to transform bibliographic instruction success to information literacy.

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One of the salient items in the discussions was the emphasis on **faculty collaboration**. The success of information literacy programs is linked to the cooperation between Library staff and faculty. Maintaining or obtaining footholds in Faculty meetings gives entry to many opportunities.

Another major point was **assessment**. Starting with some knowledge of student's information literacy abilities/inabilities (Freshman or Seniors, e.g.) and clear learning objectives helps the assessment process. Evaluation of a classroom instruction process becomes simple when you have standards by which to judge. Ultimately, assessment results will become the foundation for the next instructional classes.

ACRL/Distance Learning Services: Discussion Group

Topic: **Integrate, Separate, or Outsource?**

Some would agree that the ideal Distance Learning Services (DLS) of an Academic Library would be a fully integrated library system that includes a DLS department that coordinates easily into the mainstream activities of the main library and shares all resources. The presenters pointed out that sometimes, other systems work more efficiently based on the needs of the institution and the feasible methods the library uses for supplying services to the faculty/students. A separate DLS with its own budget and solely electronic format is working for some institutions (e.g., Phoenix University, Central Michigan.) However, others find that the limited resources require outsourcing work such as document delivery services which leaves staff free to serve students/faculty with more direct and personal services. In case you are wondering, here at GW we have, like many others, a combination of an integrated, separated and outsourced system.

Although VCL has its own budget, a singular collection related to the coursework and our own ILL system, we rely heavily on Gelman's resources; we share the collection, circulation, cataloging, acquisition and especially electronic resources. Checking for availability requires our

dependence on Gelman's outsourced services for shelving materials.

Just as we compare well to other successful DLS programs, so too we need to be aware of issues confronting growth and a continually successful future.

Sandy Slade from the University of Victoria, British Columbia pointed out current and future issues facing DLS. The highlights include:

Current Issues require us to:

- Address off campus instruction (online and esp. interactive video)
- Keep a focus on remote access to electronic resources; learn user information-seeking patterns
- Develop virtual reference assistance
- Be proactive and market our services
- Conduct literature searches and identify good Web resources
- Focus on teaching effective use of resources
- Foster information literacy skills (see above)
- Collaborate more between Faculty and Library

Future Trends are leading us to:

- Hybrid Libraries
- Globalization programs – language and delivery issues are prominent
- Multi-faceted services (24 -7 reference services)

- Aim to give Library high visibility
- Continuous research and assessment – user trends, needs, etc.
- Adapt and improve Library instruction and assistance
- Look to require BI in ALL courses/programs
- Employ more effective consortia collaboration
- Outsourcing: save human resources; see: <http://www.egloballibrary.com/> where you can contract for 24 - 7 reference assistance, have online tutorials and research guides custom prepared, etc.

“There are 70 million books in American libraries, but the one I want to read is always out.”

Tom Masson (1866-1934)



CAMPUS NEWS

GW Appoints Roger Whitaker Dean of the New College of Professional Studies

by **Teena Bedola**
Administration

Attached as **Attachment A**. Information about Roger Whitaker’s appointment as the Dean of the New College of Professional Studies.

GELMAN HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

Vacancy Listing

Please see **Attachment B** for Gelman’s Vacancy Listings.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Gelman Library System Staff Retreat

8/17/01 Friday, Noon – 5:00 p.m.
Fort Hunt Park – Alexandria, VA

THIS WEEK IN LITERARY HISTORY

July 29, 1900	Swedish novelist, Eyvind Johnson , is born.
July 29, 1786	Pittz Gazette, the first newspaper is published west of Alleghenies.
July 30, 1818	English novelist and author of <i>Wuthering Heights</i> , Emily Bronte is born.
July 30, 1836	First English newspaper is published in Hawaii.
July 31, 1970	The complete New American Standard Version of the <i>Bible</i> (NASB) is first published.
Aug. 1, 1779	Francis Scott Key , composer of <i>The Star-Spangled Banner</i> is born.
Aug. 1, 1882	Australian poet, Henry Kendall , dies of tuberculosis at 43.
Aug. 2, 1988	Raymond Carver , poet and short story writer, dies at 50.
Aug. 3, 1902	German Lutheran Old Testament scholar, Martin Noth is born.
Aug. 4, 1792	English romantic poet, Percy Bysshe Shelley is born.
Aug. 4, 1944	Nazis arrest Anne Frank .

RENAISSANCE TIMES

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