

**Library Instruction at Whittemore Library, Framingham State  
College:  
Goals and Initiatives 2008-2009**

The Library Instruction program at Whittemore Library is trying to adapt to changing technologies and the changing learning styles of the college students of today. This provides new challenges, creating an opportunity to infuse library instruction with a new vitality.

**Technology:**

Colleges and universities are dealing with a generation of students who grew up with the Internet, are technologically savvy and multi-task within multiple technologies. They are often visual learners and learn by discovering through trial and error rather than by reading widely. At Whittemore Library we are examining our instruction program to adapt to the learning needs of these students. Laptops will be required for all students to bring with them to library instruction sessions for Expository Writing. Hands on practice with electronic resources will be integrated within the learning process. Instructors will not follow a straight lecture format. This will create a more active learning environment, with students contributing to their own learning.

Technology will be used to reinforce the learning process. Aside from the use of laptops by the student, before coming to the instruction class, students will be encouraged to watch animated online tutorials located on the Library Web Site, concerning relevant electronic resources needed for course research.

Regarding *Blackboard*, embedded librarians will continue to be available to give research assistance. The aforementioned online tutorials will give additional support to distance education students unable to come to the campus.

**Collaboration:**

Collaboration with faculty will be encouraged and hopefully broadened. When library instruction is thoughtfully integrated or embedded into a professor's syllabus, the learning experience (and hopefully the student's research paper) for the student improves. The more the library and the librarian are integrated into the educational fabric, the more the students will take advantage of the library and its services.

**Assessment:**

Assessing the success of meeting the goals and outcomes of student learning has been a requirement of library instruction programs for the past few years. Assessment will continue to be employed on a broad scale, with questionnaires being distributed to students and faculty concerning the success of the library session. Some pre- and post-test assessment of library skills will be utilized with faculty who would be willing to collaborate in this way. Verbal feedback between faculty and librarians concerning the instruction session will also be encouraged, and librarians will document these comments.

**Curriculum Goals:**

The library instruction program at Whittemore Library takes into account the Information Literacy Standards set by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). ACRL describes information literacy as: "the abilities to recognize when information is needed and then to phrase questions designed to gather the needed information. It includes evaluating and then using information appropriately and ethically once it is retrieved from any media, including electronic, human or print sources."<sup>1</sup> In our teaching at Whittemore Library we address these information literacy issues from the ACRL Standards by teaching students:

- To critically evaluate a variety of information resources for usefulness and authority, in turn to reinforce critical thinking skills
- To determine the information need and to in turn, identify and use core research tools, including appropriate databases in the chosen discipline
- To develop effective and efficient information seeking strategies to access needed information for assignments and other research
- To gain an understanding of the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information (including plagiarism and the importance of citing sources) and to access and use information ethically and legally<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Objectives for Information Literacy Instruction: A Model Statement for Academic Librarians. Approved by the ACRL Board Jan. 2001. <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlstandards/objectivesinformation.cfm>

<sup>2</sup> Adopted from the Association of College and Research Libraries Information Literacy Standards <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlstandards/informationliteracycompetency.cfm>