Resource List
Motivating Faculty to Integrate the Library: We Can Work Together
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The ERIAL project was began 2 years ago by 5 Illinois Institutions, and was an ethnographic research project organized around determining what students actually due when assigned a research project and what are the expectations of stakeholders in regards to these types of assignments. Findings included that students have trouble understanding citations, do not have a repertoire of advanced search strategies, and have low skill levels in evaluating resources. Additionally, they found that “professors often pay a central role in brokering the relationship between students and librarians”. For more information, see http://www.erialproject.org/


"A report of findings from 2,318 respondents to a survey carried out among college students on six campuses distributed across the U.S. in the spring of 2009, as part of Project Information Literacy. The findings suggest that students conceptualize research, especially tasks associated with seeking information, as a competency learned by rote, rather than as an opportunity to learn, develop, or expand upon an information-gathering strategy which leverages the wide range of resources available to them in the digital age."


Janes discusses the implications of results on the ETS ICT test, including the finding that students are unable to evaluate websites effectively.


"The findings indicate that information consumers view libraries as places to borrow print books, but they are unaware of the rich electronic content they can access through libraries."


The original study that reported that students were using the Internet for their research. "Nearly three-quarters (73%) of college students say they use the Internet more than the library, while only 9% said they use the library more than the Internet for information searching."

In this article, Barry Schwartz, professor of Psychology at Swarthmore College, discusses the concepts of "choice overload", "satisficers", choices students face in and outside the classroom environment and the anxiety and stress that too much choice can sometimes produce.


"This study investigates the types of sources that English composition students use in their research essays. Unlike previous studies, this project pairs an examination of source citations with deeper analysis of source use, and both are discussed in relation to responses gathered in focus groups with participating students and teachers. The researchers examine how students negotiate locating and using source material, particularly online sources, in terms of timeliness, authority, and bias. The researchers report on how teachers struggle to introduce these concepts and how students fail to perceive authority and bias in their sources."


The author of this article contents that "producing a term paper or research report is a daunting task for students who have weak research and writing skills". In this article, the author advocates rethinking the research paper assignment, and offers learner-centered approaches that support the research and writing process, and may help to reduce plagiarism.

- Break up major research papers into smaller assignments
- Require students to write about course-specific topics
- Choose some required source material for your students
- Incorporate assignments into classroom discussions and tests
- Meet with students to discuss their research
- Require students to submit printouts of source materials