

DESCRIBING & ASSESSING

Information Sources

IN ASSIGNMENTS

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Question

What types of sources do you require/expect students to use in your assignments?

Examples:

- scholarly articles
- social media
- newspaper articles
- case studies
- books

???

Typical questions
are asked in
assignment

What's the difference
between a scholarly article
and an academic article?

My assignment says "search
the library"...what does this
mean?

What does my prof mean by
sources?"

a primary source?

How do I know if an article
is peer-reviewed?

The plan

1

Selecting

2

Describing

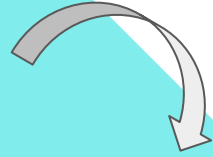
3

Evaluating

Selecting Sources for Assignments

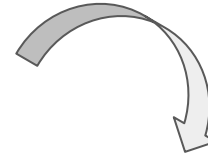
Learning Outcomes

1. Engage with the literature
2. Understanding scholarly discourse
3. Evaluate sources for quality and relevance



Info. Lit Competencies*

1. Synthesize ideas from multiple sources
2. Recognize that a given scholarly work does not necessarily represent the final word or even majority perspective
3. Recognizing authority is contextual



Sources/Assignment Types

1. 3+ scholarly sources, Literature Review
2. 3+ scholarly sources, Annotated bibliography
3. 2+ sources of different types (i.e. news vs. scholarly)

* Shehaamah Mohamed (2017)
<https://sandbox.acrl.org/library-collection/acrl-framework-rubric>

Information Literacy Skills

Hidden

- locate and identify peer-reviewed sources
- seek multiple perspectives on a topic/issue
- read and recognize citations
- use different types of searching language/skills
- read and identify main ideas of scholarly articles

Explicit

- use a specified number and type of sources
- cite sources based on a particular style
- use high quality/credible sources

Question

What information literacy/research skills do you expect students to have coming into your class?

Examples

- finding basic information
- finding seminal works
- evaluating for quality
- evaluating for relevance
- citation

Describing Sources

Monograph

A book focusing on a single subject, usually scholarly, which presents primary or original research. ([OCAD U Library](#))

Note: Students who are still learning about different types of publications may have difficulty differentiating between a textbook and a monograph.

Provide an example in your discipline.



Context Matters

- Why do they need to use these sources specifically?
- Reasons for why they have to use a specific number of sources

Questions

Do you have marks assigned for students' use of sources (e.g quality, relevance, analysis)?

Is it explicitly written in your rubric or implied/evaluated within other sections?

Evaluating IL Competencies

Authority

An author's ability to write/speak/produce work on a topic is based on credentials, expertise, experience, and/or knowledge on the subject.

Context

Refers to the set of circumstances in which an author is creating a work, this can be their community, be it academic, cultural or social.

Creation Process

The steps by which the information has come to exist, including the author's research and writing process, publication process and dissemination.

Example Rubric

	Beginner	Novice	Proficient	Advanced
Appropriate and effective use of sources	Recognizes that quality of information is based on the creator's authority.	Demonstrates an understanding that the author's authority is contextual.	Critically evaluates quality of information based on author's authority, context and creation process of the work.	Includes a variety of perspectives, used in consideration of the author's authority, context, and creation process of the work.

Based on: Shehaamah Mohamed (2017) <https://sandbox.acrl.org/library-collection/acrl-framework-rubric>

Recommendations

- determine what research skills are needed for assignments
- use definitions where necessary to provide clarity in assignment descriptions
- explicitly mention any research skills you want to assess within rubrics



References

- Dorothy H. Hoover Library, OCAD University. (2018). What's in the Library: Books: Monographs. Retrieved from <https://ocad.libguides.com/PrintBooks/Monographs>
- Shehaamah, M. (2017). ACRL Framework Rubric. Retrieved from <https://sandbox.acrl.org/library-collection/acrl-framework-rubric>

Thanks!

Does anyone have any questions?

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