Information Literacy: It’s Way More Than Instruction

SI 643
Week 10
Information Literacy Changed
The “Instruction” Paradigm

- Away from a system-centered approach
- From “how to use the stuff” to the individual’s need.
- Toward incorporating the need
- Toward understanding the information search process
- And a new model of practice for many librarians
Kuhlthau’s Information Search Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Initiation</th>
<th>Selection</th>
<th>Exploration</th>
<th>Formulation</th>
<th>Collection</th>
<th>Presentation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feelings (affective)</td>
<td>uncertainly</td>
<td>optimism</td>
<td>confusion</td>
<td>clarity</td>
<td>sense of direction/</td>
<td>satisfaction or disappointment</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>frustration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>doubt</td>
<td>confidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thoughts (cognitive)</td>
<td>vague</td>
<td>focused</td>
<td>increased interest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actions (physical)</td>
<td>seeking relevant information</td>
<td>exploring</td>
<td>seeking pertinent information</td>
<td>documenting</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Kuhlthau: On Information Literacy (she helped coin term)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roles of the School Librarian</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resource specialist</td>
<td>Develops school library resources&lt;br&gt;Provides Internet resources&lt;br&gt;Provides contacts with community resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information literacy teacher</td>
<td>Teaches concepts for information access, evaluation, and use&lt;br&gt;Maintains long-term relationships with students from year to year&lt;br&gt;Fosters constructivist learning environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaboration gatekeeper</td>
<td>Coordinates Guided Inquiry team&lt;br&gt;Keeps communication open&lt;br&gt;Uses flexible managerial skills&lt;br&gt;Communicates with community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 4.3. Roles of the School Librarian.

Kuhlthau, “Guided inquiry: learning in the 21st century”
Big 6-Mike Eisenberg
http://www.big6.com

1. **Task Definition**- 1.1 Define the information problem  
   1.2 Identify information needed
2. **Information Seeking Strategies**- 2.1 Determine all possible sources  
   2.2 Select the best sources
3. **Location and Access**- 3.1 Locate sources (intellectually and physically)  
   3.2 Find information within sources
4. **Use of Information**- 4.1 Engage (e.g., read, hear, view, touch)  
   4.2 Extract relevant information
5. **Synthesis**- 5.1 Organize from multiple sources  
   5.2 Present the information
6. **Evaluation**- 6.1 Judge the product (effectiveness)  
   6.2 Judge the process (efficiency)
Information Literacy Beginnings: American Library Association

- *Information literacy* refers to a constellation of skills revolving around information research and use.
- An information literate person is, "able to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use it effectively."
- [http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=Information_Literacy&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=21798](http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=Information_Literacy&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=21798)
- Influential Report. Popularized the term “information literacy.” Key to its use.
- Website includes major players, reports, books & other resources.
ALA’s Association of College & Research Libraries

• ACRL’s Information Literacy Initiative—
  • http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/issues/infolit/informationliteracy.cfm
• Standards & guidelines
• Resources & “best practice” examples
• Training and other professional activities
Summary of AASL’s Info literacy leadership

• [http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aaslissues/aaslinfolit/informationliteracy1.htm](http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aaslissues/aaslinfolit/informationliteracy1.htm)

• AASL’s Info Literacy Resource Guide
  • [http://www.ala.org/aasITemplate.cfm?Section=resourceguides&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=15288](http://www.ala.org/aasITemplate.cfm?Section=resourceguides&Template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=15288)
Medical Library Association

Health Information Literacy

- [http://www.mlanet.org/resources/healthlit/](http://www.mlanet.org/resources/healthlit/)

- "as many as half of all adults in all socio-economic levels struggle with health literacy"

Ethics & Values

- http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oif/firstamendment/firstamendment.cfm
- ALA Code of Ethics (again)
- http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oif/statementspols/codeofethics/codeethics.cfm