SI 643 - Professional Practice in Libraries and Information Centers, Winter 2009

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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></td>
<td>frustration</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>seeking pertinent information</td>
<td>exploring</td>
<td>documenting</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Kuhlthau: On Information Literacy (she helped coin term)

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

Figure 4.3. Roles of the School Librarian.

Kuhlthau, “Guided inquiry: learning in the 21st century”
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—

- Standards & guidelines
- Resources & “best practice” examples
- Training and other professional activities
ALÁ’s American Association of School Librarians

Summary of AASL’s Info literacy leadership
• http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aaslissues/aaslinfo/lit/informationliteracy1.htm

• AASL’s Info Literacy Resource Guide
  • http://www.ala.org/aaslTemplate.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](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](http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oif/statementspols/codeofethics/codeethics.cfm)