

Faculty Partnerships Working Group Report
Information Literacy Planning Group
For the Year 2002-2003
August 16, 2002

The Goal:

To promote the concept of information literacy with faculty through pilot projects, workshops, speakers, and/or other types of programmatic initiatives to introduce the concepts, generate dialog, and look for potential partners.

Significance of the Goal:

- Information literacy provides a foundation for lifelong learning.
- Information literacy touches all disciplines.
- Librarians are uniquely qualified to help students expand their skills and abilities for finding, evaluating, and using information.
- Teaching faculty are uniquely qualified to help students see how information literacy fits into various disciplines and into work and life experience.
- By working together, teaching faculty and librarians can spark student interest and help to build skills and abilities for information literacy.

Objectives:

1. Promote the concept of information literacy to faculty to gain widespread exposure to the concept.

Rationale:

If teaching faculty encounter the concept of information literacy in a variety of contexts, they will become more interested and open to exploring how it can enhance their teaching and student learning.

Action Items:

Communicate information about our information literacy initiative in a variety of ways such as through:

- Orientation for new faculty (Barbara)
- Departmental faculty meetings, as appropriate

- Subject Librarian contacts
- Hosting a reception for new faculty (in the Spring for those who have come to UT in the past couple of years)
- Invitations to department heads to engage their faculty
- E-mail distribution lists
 - Faculty Senate
 - Departmental
 - Subject Librarians
 - Library Representatives
 - To all teaching faculty
- Library Representatives meetings (a slot at the beginning of the meetings, in Barbara's remarks)
- Distribution of the information literacy brochure and promotion of the information literacy website
- Producing an information literacy newsletter in both print and electronic forms
- Existing library newsletters and listservs
- The Faculty Senate Library Committee
- Tailoring communications to specific target audiences

Convene faculty focus groups to generate dialog, to gather and provide information, and to establish a strong foundation for partnerships:

- Host at least two focus groups in the Fall:
 - Ask how we can support their work.
 - Talk about what we can offer.
 - Advertise the Reference workshop series.
- Evaluate the results of the focus groups and plan for additional dialog and for gathering further feedback.

Conduct information literacy workshops for faculty to introduce the concepts, to develop ideas for collaboration, and to generate goodwill:

- Present workshops for faculty and graduate teaching associates and assistants in the fall and/or spring.
 - Evaluating Web Sites
Description: This workshop emphasizes the importance of evaluating information found on the Web and features a new UT Libraries' tutorial, "Web Skills and Evaluation." Discussion will focus on how to incorporate the tutorial into course content.
 - Integrating Library Resources into Courses
Description: This workshop offers the opportunity for faculty and GTAs to discuss with librarians innovative ways to incorporate library resources into course content and to help students learn to make better use of the wealth of available information.
 - Evaluate and revise these workshops as needed.
 - Plan additional workshops for the coming year.
2. Promote information literacy to specific target audiences and groups to focus our efforts in effective ways.

Rationale:

Some audiences will benefit more from information literacy outreach than others.

Action Items:

Communicate with and/or conduct workshops for groups and audiences such as:

- Freshman Composition instructors
- Courses on teaching methods
- Graduate assistants and associates who teach
- Department or Graduate student orientations
- University Studies
- Orientation Leaders

3. Provide Subject Librarians with promotional materials, with opportunities to share thoughts and experiences, with ideas for partnering with faculty, and with an environment that encourages a continuing flow of information to enhance success in promoting information literacy.

Rationale:

We need to equip Subject Librarians for successful partnerships with faculty.

Action Items:

- Provide a plentiful supply of information literacy brochures for distribution at the beginning of Fall semester.
- Revise the brochure when a slogan or logo has been chosen.
- Promote the information literacy Web site and revise it as appropriate.
- Give regular updates at Reference Department meetings and keep all Subject Librarians informed about our progress.
- Conduct workshops on information literacy that include:
 - Overview of publicity and teaching tools
 - Ways to partner with faculty
 - Web evaluation
 - Reports from the Working Groups
 - Ideas for integrating library resources into course content

Important Individuals and Groups:

- Students: To maximize their learning experience.
- Teaching faculty including Graduate Teaching Associates and Assistants: To partner with us in providing information literacy education.
- Subject Librarians: To promote our information literacy initiative.
- Instructional Services Coordinator: To lead in planning and implementation
- Subject Coordinators: To help shape plans for discipline-specific teaching
- Head of Reference and Instructional Services: To lead, plan, and support throughout the process

- Dean of Libraries: To represent information literacy efforts to the university administration and community and to support our teaching function
- Presenters for Workshops: To present the appropriate material in ways appropriate to a faculty audience

Resources:

- Well-designed promotional materials
- Well-chosen books, articles, and Web sites on information literacy
- Time for librarians to learn, develop teaching materials, and implement the program
- Professional and budgetary support from the Dean of Libraries and the Head of Reference and Instructional Services
- Financial support from the university and through grants
- Resources for incentives for teaching faculty, librarians, and others who engage in pilot programs for information literacy

One-Year Implementation Plan:

Fall 2002

- Further develop promotional materials.
- Promote the concept of information literacy to faculty in a variety of ways, including hosting faculty focus groups and conducting faculty workshops.
- Promote the concept of information literacy to specific target audiences and groups.
- Provide continuing information and workshops for Subject Librarians.

Spring 2003

- Continue enhancing and updating promotional materials.
- Continue promotional outreach to faculty.
- Provide additional information and workshops for Subject Librarians.

- Evaluate the need for additional faculty focus groups or for additional ways to generate dialog.
- Revise and present faculty workshops; perhaps develop new ones.
- Evaluate current efforts and consider next steps.

Summer 2003

- Revise promotional materials.
- Evaluate what Subject Librarians need at this point.
- Host workshops for librarian / faculty partners who will pilot projects in the next academic year.

Assessment:

- Assess the content of promotional materials and the need for new materials.
- Use assessment methods in developing, presenting, and revising the workshops.
- Incorporate assessment into the workshop format.

For Future Consideration:

- Form a Faculty Advisory Committee for Information Literacy.
- Host a campus or community conference on information literacy.

Faculty Partnerships Working Group:

Molly Royse, Co-Chair
Marie Garrett, Co-Chair
Steve Harris
Kay Johnson
Jacqueline Kracker
Ellie Read