Demystifying Research
What’s This Workshop About?

● The concept of information literacy and how it applies to you and your work.

● Strategies for organizing your thoughts & preparing to do research.

● Evaluation of information resources.

● ZOTERO - Tour our favorite citation management tool!
Information Literacy Defined

Information literacy is the set of integrated abilities encompassing the reflective discovery of information, the understanding of how information is produced and valued, and the use of information in creating new knowledge and participating ethically in communities of learning.
Information Literacy Frameworks

1. Scholarship as Conversation
2. Research as Inquiry
3. Authority is Constructed and Contextual
4. Information Creation as a Process
5. Searching as Strategic Exploration
6. Information has Value
The Creative Process

Taking Charge of Your Research

Organize Your Thoughts *First*

- Concept & Mind Maps
- Lists & Outlining
- Inspiration Boards & Post-It Walls.
- Others? Share how you get organized.

*Keep focus in a world of packed due dates.*
Sample Concept Map

I Don’t Even Have The Words

Be A Detective!

- What Has Lead You Here So Far
- Who Have You Talked To
- What Have You Read
- Where Did You Think Of It
- Why Does It Interest You

You Can Turn A Small Something Into A Lot With The Right Questions
Find The Sweet Spot

TOO MUCH INFO

SWEET SPOT

NOT ENOUGH INFO
Organized Searching

Library Catalog Searches
THEN
Article Searches
THEN
ILL Requests

Do All Of One Research Method, Then Move On
Popular or Scholarly?

- Peer-reviewed, Referreed, Academic
- Blind & double blind submission
Evaluating Resources

Beware!

Junk Science & Predatory Journals

Not all information is informative
Evaluation: The CRAAP TEST

- **Currency**
- **Relevance**
- **Purpose**
- **Accuracy**
- **Authority**
Bias Is A Two-Way Street

- Examine and evaluate
- Recognize prejudice, deception or manipulation, including your own
- Recognize cultural, physical or other context
- No one regulates information placed on the Web
What’s the Difference?

- Google and Confirmation Bias
- Wikipedia as a jumping off place
- Library resources and controlled vocabularies & classification
What Do We Recommend?

1. Eliot D. Pratt Library Catalog - physical materials & ebooks we have.

2. EBSCO Academic Search Complete - articles we have. Most full-text.

3. WorldCat ILL - requesting physical materials & articles we don’t have.

Build confidence with searching and evaluating resources with your tuition paid resources first, then test your chops on the web.
Using Info Once You’ve Got It

• Keep track of resources used

• Keep track of quotes

• Organize reference and works cited: use online software, e.g. Zotero, EasyBib

• Create your Bibliography in proper format
Copyright Resources

● The Copyright Clearance Center provides Resources: [http://www.copyright.com/](http://www.copyright.com/) Check out “RightsLink Basic,” a free service to add a “Get permissions” button to your website

● Licensing Services to Protect Your Work & Grant Use Permission: [http://creativecommons.org/licenses/](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/)
How Not To Use Info

The Crime of Plagiarism

The breadcrumb trail - credit where credit is due

Diminishing your own work

Respecting intellectual property of others
How To Keep Track of Resources

zotero

- Collect
- Cite
- Manage
- Share
- Back-ups

Do this all from your Firefox browser!