Presenter Notes for Demystifying Research

Creative Process Notes:

Present the slides on "Your Creative Process" with Sample Concept/Mind Map, Sample List/Outline, Sample Inspiration Board, Sample Post-It Wall. Give everyone 5 minutes to write or draw out their own creative process. For this we will need to have on hand: paper and an assortment of writing/drawing tools (in case they don't come with their supplies).

Discuss the processes, discoveries, surprises, methods, etc.

Research Process Notes:

Present the slide "Your Research Process" and have a round table in which everyone is invited to outline how they research and how they validate what they find. Participants may also want to respond to the question about the similarities (or differences) between their creative process and research process.

Information Literacy Notes:

- Scholarship is sustained discourse within a community. New insights occur with competing and complementary perspectives and interpretations.

- Research is iterative, relying on increasingly complex questions with answers developing new questions and lines of inquiry.

- Authority depends on resource origins, your need, and context of use with both informed skepticism and openness to new and changing perspectives and voices.

- Ethics is a moving target and is its own complex, ever changing conversation. More on this later

Research Ethics Notes:

- Plagiarism is a legal issue with consequences - you can be sued for not crediting work, even by accident and may be faced with sanctions within the College.

- Derivative work/appropriation is NOT plagiarism if credited, but it may be against copyright, a different crime with separate but similar consequences.

- Copyright is a hotly contested topic. Where is the line between artistic license and crime? When might you choose to push or cross that boundary?

Research Tour & Tips Notes:

- How to find the words.

  - Match your/your community of inquiry's words with the language created by librarians/information professionals who are not a part of your community of inquiry. Use materials you know with library search tools to find the translation of the inquiry language into library subject headings or database subjects/keywords/etc.

  - Be a detective - what lead you here, who have you talked to, what have you read, etc. 5 W's of journalism to take stock of your known knowledge, then mine that knowledge for resources.

- Organizing the search process to keep from falling down the rabbit hole

  - Using the research inquiry and research process to keep focus. Using organized search and tools to be efficient.

- Searching tips

  - Broad to narrow or visa versa - finding the sweet spot of how much information/results are manageable and relevant to you.
  - Library resources bias vs. Google confirmation bias ; Scholarly vs. popular definitions

- Evaluation tips

  ○ You should be able to determine what is the purpose and who wrote it
  ○ How does it relate to your research question
  ○ .com vs .org, .net, .gov, etc. in selecting appropriate web resources
  ○ Advisors are the final arbitrator of appropriateness
  ○ recognising bias - yours and others.
  ○ recognizing context - cultural, physical, other

- Using information once you've got it

  ○ Keep track of resources used
  ○ Keep track of quotes
  ○ Organize references and works cited: Using tools like Zotero to organize the fruits of labor and set aside non-relevant information for later.
  ○ Create your Bibliography and Annotated Bibliography in proper format and style (see handout for MFA-IA Annotated Bibliography suggestions and the library Writing & Citing page: http://lits.goddard.edu/writecite)

Research Inquiry Exercise Notes:

With the remaining time, invite participants to try researching using their method and some of our tips. Suggest that their own questions, realizations, struggles, etc. would be great teachable moments for everyone and encourage them to workshop aloud as they think of things.

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