Using Student Reflection to Assess Library Instruction

Carol A. Singer
Dive Into Data
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Summary

* Senior-level nutrition research methods class
* I taught a library instruction session each year
* Two years in a row, the student wrote a reflective essay after the session
* I used the essays to change my presentation
Food & Nutrition Program

* I inherited responsibility for their library instruction in 2009
* I gave instruction sessions for four classes
* Each session was designed for the particular course and class assignments
Research Methods Class

* FN 4400 (Senior-level) Research Methods in Food, Nutrition, and Dietetics
Topics Covered 2009-2010

* Food & Nutrition LibGuide
* Finding Books (OhioLINK, ILL)
* Finding Articles (Medline, PubMed, Web of Science, CINAHL, Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition)
* Finding Articles with a Partial Citation
* Mostly lecture
2011

* Didn’t demonstrate CINAHL or Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition
* Added Summon
* Expanded the section on Finding Articles with a Partial Citation
The presentation was similar to 2011
The professor assigned her students to write a one-page reflection essay after the presentation
She gave me the 27 essays
What did you learn?
What were the most valuable things in the presentation?
What was covered that wasn’t useful to you?
What could be improved for future classes?
The professor cited the following recommendations from the students:

1. Include handouts
2. Have an activity to practice their new skills and knowledge
3. Spend less time on Web of Science
2012: What the Students Liked

* Learning search modifiers and limiters (17)
* Said the session was useful overall (16)
* Learning about the Food & Nutrition LibGuide (12)
* Knowing how to get help (8)
* Using OhioLINK to borrow books (7)
* Using interlibrary loan (6)
2012 What They Didn’t Like

* Sometimes I talked too fast (6)
* Spent too much time on OhioLINK or they already knew about OhioLINK (5)
* Had heard this information before (3)
* Didn’t want to know about Web of Science (2)
2012 Recommendations

- Give them a handout of the presentation outline (7)
- Give them a handout with step-by-step instructions (7)
- Make the session more interactive (5)
- Have this presentation during freshmen or sophomore year (4)
- Give them a handout that’s a site map of the Food & Nutrition LibGuide (2)
* Eliminated PubMed in order to use the time for an activity
* Included a better explanation of citation searching in Web of Science
* Tried to slow down!
* Activities:
1. Asked them what databases they used and how happy they were with their search results before showing them article databases
2. Encouraged class discussion about how to limit search results to a particular age
3. Added a hands-on exercise to compare Medline, Summon, and Web of Science
Handouts:

1. Food & Nutrition LibGuide
2. Medline
3. Finding Journal Articles When You Have a Citation Or a Partial Citation
Food and Nutrition LibGuide
http://libguides.bgsu.edu/nutrition

To get to the Food and Nutrition LibGuide:
1. Go to the BGSU Libraries home page: http://www.bgsu.edu/library.html
2. Click on Search & Find in the toolbar near the top of the page.
3. Click on LibGuides, the first link under Other
4. Click on Medicine, Health & Nursing in the center box labeled Guides by Subject
5. Click on the link, Food and Nutrition

Or, type “nutrition AND libguide” (without the quotation marks) in the Summon search box on the University Library home page.

Or, type the url at the top of this page into your browser.
Medline
http://maurice.bgsu.edu/record=e1000303

Why Medline?
MEDLINE provides authoritative, scholarly information on nutrition, dietetics, medicine, nursing, dentistry, and other medical topics. Created by the National Library of Medicine, MEDLINE uses MeSH (Medical Subject Headings) indexing.

Searching Basics
Decide on your search terms. Remember that this is a medical database, so you might need to use medical terminology instead of common terms (such as: hypertension instead of high blood pressure). Type the terms in the main search box:
Finding Journal Articles When You Have the Citation
Or a Partial Citation

Finding an Article When You Have the Citation

Start at the University Libraries home page. Click on Search & Find in the toolbar near the top of the page. Click on the Journals by Title link under Articles & Databases. Then, type the title of the journal in the search box on the page that appears and click on the Search button.

Journal Title List

Find journals by title or ISSN

Title begins with journal of nutrition Search
The professor assigned the class to write reflection essays.

1. What did you learn?
2. What were the most valuable things in the presentation?
3. What was covered that wasn’t useful to you?
4. What could be improved for future classes?
2013: What The Students Liked

- Said the session was useful overall (12)
- Liked the handouts (12)
- Learning to use limits and/or search operators (12)
- Liked the Food & Nutrition LibGuide (8)
- Liked the hands-on activity (8)
- Learning to use OhioLINK to borrow books (8)
- Learning to use Medline (7)
- Learning to use MeSH headings (6)
- Learned more than in previous library instruction (6)
2013: What They Didn’t Like

- Had a similar session before (1)
- It was hard to keep up (1)
2013: Recommendations

* Have this session earlier in a student’s college career (freshman or sophomore year) (3)
* Have more activities, maybe even games (3)
* Slow down (2)
2014

* Few changes to this class presentation
* Used handouts in several other classes
* Began doing library instruction for several new departments
2015: Plans

* Eliminate coverage of Web of Science
* Add an activity about finding journal articles when you have a partial citation
* Slow down!
Questions?

* You can also email me:

* Carol A. Singer
* singerc@bgsu.edu