

Seven ways to integrate Information Literacy Instruction into your course or program

Embedded Librarian

What is it? Most often used in an online course setting, this involves providing a librarian with access to your Blackboard course. The librarian makes regular appearances in the course, can facilitate discussions, answer questions, and sometimes even contribute library-related assignments to the course.

Pros: *Students and faculty develop a strong working relationship with the librarian. The librarian is deeply aware of and may be able to anticipate student needs in the course. Provides ongoing opportunities to teach, reinforce and assess information literacy concepts.*

Cons: *This method is time-intensive. A librarian may only be able to embed in a few sections per semester.*

Librarian as LinC Success Coach

What is it? If you are teaching a LinC (Learning in Community) course, a librarian can serve as success coach, supporting both courses and helping students navigate. In practice, this functions similarly to an embedded librarian experience in the classroom. See the [Learning in Community](http://valenciacollege.edu/linc/) web site (<http://valenciacollege.edu/linc/>) for more information.

Pros and Cons are similar to Embedded Librarian (above).

Library Instruction Session / Virtual Library Instruction

What is it? A one-time instruction session about the length of a single class meeting. Virtual library instruction can be conducted via GotoMeeting or similar software for online students. The librarian and faculty member confer beforehand and collaborate on a lesson plan that is tailored to the assignment.

Pros: *Dedicating a class period to library instruction sends a strong message to students about the essential role of research skills in your field. The librarian can provide active learning opportunities and effectively cover a basic set of concepts and skills.*

Cons: *A one-shot session may not be enough time to convey all the needed information or to go in-depth into certain concepts. There is usually limited opportunity for a summative evaluation of student learning. There may not be a class period to spare for a session.*

Librarian Visit / Librarian Chat Session

What is it? A quick, 5-10 minute visit to your classroom by a librarian. Best if you have a smart classroom. The librarian can briefly demonstrate how to connect to the library, locate a required resource, and contact the library for further information. In an online class this could be a one-time, synchronous Q&A chat session or a single facilitated discussion on your discussion board.

Pros: *This may be a good option if you do not have enough class time for a full-length session. It introduces students to a specific person so that they may be more apt to contact the librarian.*

Cons: *Not enough time to convey information literacy concepts. This method relies on students following-up by contacting the librarian independently.*

Customized LibGuide

What is it? This is a customized guide to library resources supporting your course or assignment. It can include live links, instructions, tutorials, images and more. A faculty member can have administrative access to edit and contribute content to the LibGuide. See <http://libguides.valenciacollege.edu> for examples.

Pros: *Can provide a large amount of content in a form that is easy to access. Students can return to it over and over as needed. Provides instruction in a passive form, much like a digital textbook. Can be used with or without a live instruction session. A permanent resource that can simply be updated from semester to semester.*

Cons: *Since this method is not active, it relies on the student to access, use the guide and follow up with questions.*

Online Tutorial

What is it? A recorded audio-visual presentation or a self-paced learning module. Recorded sessions are usually created using Camtasia and include screenshots of actual searches. A video of the librarian's presentation can also be embedded. A self-paced module might be created using SoftChalk or similar software, which could include learning activities and quizzes.

Pros: *Can provide a large amount of content in a form that is easy to access. Students can return to it over and over as needed. Can involve some active learning opportunities. The length can be customized from a few minutes to a full class session.*

Cons: *Relies on the student to access, view the tutorial, and follow up with questions. May be time-intensive to create and update.*

Student Services Skillshop

What is it? Librarians offer various Skillshops focusing on Information Literacy concepts through the Student Services Skillshop program. Students can attend voluntarily, but faculty may consider offering extra credit for attendance.

Pros: *Students can attend on their own time; can offer an interactive, workshop-style session. It also introduces students to a specific person so that they may be more apt to contact the librarian.*

Cons: *Due to the open invitation, Skillshops are not generally tailored to the needs of one course or program.*