Creative IL Instruction for Online and Campus Students

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Creative IL Instruction for online & campus students

Susan A. Vega García
Head, Instruction Department
Associate Professor
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• Library 160: Information Literacy
• Course-Related Instruction
• Orientation & Tours
• Workshops
• Distance Learning Outreach

ISU Library collections were initiated in 1870.

In 1890, an innovative class called “Library Use Instruction” was established for all freshmen.

This Library instruction course was one of the first of its kind nationwide.
Background: Library Instruction @ ISU

• Library 160: Information Literacy
• Course-Related Instruction
• Orientation & Tours
• Workshops
• Distance Learning Outreach
Lib 160: From BI to IL

~1947~

“The card catalog is a complete, descriptive record of publications in the Library.”

“An understanding of the meaning of the information on the cards will assist readers in selecting the publications they wish to read and in filling out call slips.”
Lib 160: From BI to IL

~1998~

“The OPAC provides a bibliographic description (author, title, publisher, etc.) for items in the collection, as well as an item’s location, call number, and circulation status.”
Lib 160: From BI to IL

~1998~

““Clicking” means pressing and quickly releasing the left button found on the top of the mouse (where the cord attaches.”

“By pointing to something on your screen and then clicking the mouse button, you select what is underneath the on-screen pointer.”


Taught online since 2004.

Curriculum renewed annually.
Lib 160: From BI to IL

~2007~

“The whole point of finding information is to learn, and to use information to build on what has come before to create new products and intellectual works.”

“An important step in becoming information literate is to understand some of the economic, legal, and social issues relevant to finding and using the information you need.”

Library 160:

Aligned with ACRL IL Competency Standards in 2003.

Taught online since 2004.

Curriculum renewed annually.

~1947~

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Library Instruction Manual; Iowa State College Library, 1947
Library 160: Information Literacy, 2014

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Lib 160: From BI to IL

~2014~

“We’re going to build on these types of easy web searches and level up to the type of college-level inquiry and thoughtful reflection that constitute real research. You’ll find that real research is rarely done with just one click or one basic search or using just one tool.”

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Learning & teaching online challenges

“Readings are too long and dry.”

“I don’t learn well from reading.”

“I didn’t have a teacher.”

“I knew all this already.”

Visual interest; casual writing tone; few paragraphs per page; added illustrations.

Created peer videos & interactive learning games as text supplements.

Increased instructor training for online “presence” & communication. Office hours & f2f reviews.

Pre-test and post-test provide objective measurements of real learning.
Engage the learner

Visual interest; casual writing tone; few paragraphs per page; added illustrations.

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Image sources: stockimages at freedigitalphotos.net; Image; ISU Library Instruction Dept.
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Image sources: stockimages & freedigitalphotos.net; clker.com; peer review montage svg; based on idea by Sullivan University System Libraries, http://libguides.sullivan.edu/peer-review
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Build on what students know

• Open versus Subscription resources
  - YouTube
  - Netflix
  - IMDb

• Web search versus Scholarly search

Strengths & Weaknesses:
Acknowledge the role these tools & services have in students’ lives.
Online Learning success tips

- Communication
- Time management
- Technical requirements
- Technical skills expected
- Where to go for support

Quick Tips for Success in an Online Course

Communication: Online courses rely on good communication between instructors and students. You can expect your instructor will communicate with you via Blackboard announcements and email. You’ll need to read and respond to course emails, and to let your instructor know promptly if you have questions or if difficulties arise. You should also check course postings and updates in Blackboard on a regular basis. Respectful and polite communications that are free of offensive or discriminatory language are expected at all times of students and instructors.

Time management: Just like all courses, online courses have real deadlines! You need good time management skills to do well in most online courses. Pay close attention to due dates and work hard to stay on top of weekly course expectations. Procrastination is not a good strategy in any course, but can be disastrous in an online course. You may find your computer or network don’t work at the last minute, or you don’t understand aspects of your assignment. You won’t be able to ask your instructor questions in the middle of the night that your assignment is due. Working ahead of due dates will help you manage your online course responsibilities successfully.

Minimum Technical Requirements: This course requires extensive online work, including reading, completing interactive exercises, analyzing websites, searching databases, and evaluating/interpreting results. You’ll need regular internet access to a computer that works, plus a robust & reliable wireless or hardwired connection to the Internet. Blackboard offers a browser list to help you identify issues in advance. Problems with your computer? There are more than 230 public use computers in the ISU Library alone, plus hundreds more across campus in ISU open computing labs.

Minimum Technical Skills expected of Students - Technologies used in this course include Blackboard, open web resources and search tools, web-accessible databases, YouTube videos with caption capabilities, email, and other familiar web applications. Blackboard help and General Technology Support are available. You should be familiar with general computer use, navigating the web, reading and responding to email, using web search engines, working with databases, open search tools, and other resources in this course. If you experience any problems with course technologies, contact your instructor immediately.

Problems: What to do when things don’t work well - Always alert your instructor immediately with any problems that impact your ability to do your coursework on time and to the best of your ability. Here’s a short list of helpful ISU links:

- Academic Success Center - need help with study skills, tutoring, time management? Look here!
- Campus Computing Labs - personal computer broke? Find a computer lab where you can get your course work done on time!
- Dean of Students Office - serious emergencies? Let DSO know! See Syllabus for more information.
- Disability Accommodations - contact the Student Disability Resources staff for more information. See Syllabus for more information.
- Student Counseling Services - stress management, urgent care, self help, and more.
- Writing & Media Center - everyone can benefit from feedback and assistance in improving your writing and communicating skills.

Image source: ISU Library Instruction Dept.
Technologies for teaching online

• Blackboard & Respondus
• SoftChalk
• YouTube
• Class Climate
• Quizlet
• Guide on the Side
• LibGuides
• Box
“I already know how to find information.”

“I can enter any words & find what I need.”

“I already know how to use a library. If I need something, I can just ask someone.”

“Finding scholarly information is different.”

“Thoughtful selection of search tools and search terms gives better results.”

“I now feel confident I can find scholarly materials on my own.”
Lib 160 - Ethics of Using Information

- Defining paraphrasing & plagiarism
- Identifying what leads to plagiarism
- Identifying prevention strategies
- Exercises: Authentic tasks
  - Focus on correct paraphrasing
  - Reading short passages to analyze & identify
  - Common knowledge - facts vs ideas

Awareness of Causes:
- Time management
- Stress & other problems
- Belief no one will notice

Alternatives:
- Outreach
- Better study habits
- Use of support services
Contact

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