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Learning from the Learners:The student voice in Information Literacy

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Learning from the Learners: Student voice in Information Literacy



“It is tempting, if the only tool you have is a hammer, to treat everything as if it were a nail.....”

Abraham Maslow

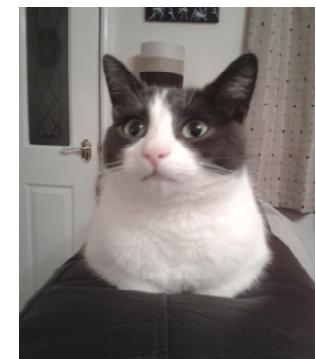


Why should we listen to students?



- They are paying to learn
- Customer Service Excellence Award
- Your contribution forms part of their overall learning experience
- It can prevent you experiencing the “Information literacy session from hell”
- It helps you to find out if what you are doing works for them

Inspiring tomorrow's professionals



The Value of Information Literacy: Conceptions of BSc Nursing Students at a UK University



To explore BSc Nursing students' conceptions of information literacy and its perceived value as part of their overall learning experience during the three year period of their university course.



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Anon: German Postcard 1888 (Wikimedia)

Let's make some assumptions



- What music do I like?
- What job did my father do?
- “Strictly” or “X Factor?”

What about assumptions?



“Assumptions are dangerous things to make, and like all dangerous things to make -- bombs, for instance, or strawberry shortcake -- if you make even the tiniest mistake you can find yourself in terrible trouble. Making assumptions simply means believing things are a certain way with little or no evidence that shows you are correct, and you can see at once how this can lead to terrible trouble”.

Lemony Snicket: The Austere Academy (2000)

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What assumptions do we make?



- Young people have excellent IT & information skills, older people don't.
- They're learning to be a nurse so they realise how important research is.
- If they listen to me, then have a practice they'll be fine.
- Librarians are not that scary.
- They'll come and see us if they need help.

How can we hear their voice?



- Ask but **listen** to the answer (informal as much as formal)
- Beware the smiley face syndrome. They may be saying what they think you want to hear
- Don't have a “one size fits all “ approach
- Focus groups
- Follow up later (or via the lecturer)
- Social media

Students as consultants project



Project aims:

- to promote authentic student engagement in the enhancement of teaching and learning and explore the nature and construct of inspirational teaching.
- to create opportunities for student and staff to engage in reflection and dialogue around teaching and learning approaches
- offer academic staff a qualified student perspective (at points of need) that goes beyond the typical end of module evaluation response or NSS survey.

Questions and/or discussion?



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