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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



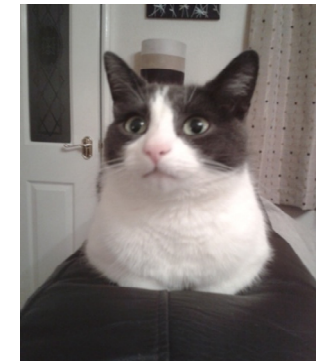
“It is tempting, if the only tool you have is a hammer, to treat everything as if it were a nail.....”

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



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

University of
HUDDERSFIELD

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.



Inspiring tomorrow's professionals

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)

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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