



Pfau Library Critical Information Literacy Program

Program Purpose

The library's critical information literacy program is designed to help students develop a critical consciousness about the information environment. Our program is based on the belief that becoming informed requires active participation; continual analysis of one's own and others' assumptions; consideration about how information is created, produced, and distributed, and the ethical use of intellectual property.

Program Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students explore the economic and social implications of free and fee-based information access in order to critically analyze the information environment.
2. Students create and use effective search strategies in order to engage in exploratory, inquiry-based research processes.
3. Students distinguish between popular and scholarly information sources in order to select the sources whose purpose, authority, and audience are consistent with their information needs.
4. Students examine how information changes over time in order to determine the values, perspectives, and processes that shaped it.
5. Students recognize the essential value of attribution in order to engage ethically and legally in scholarly conversations.

Program Structure

Introduction

All incoming First Year, Transfer, and Graduate students receive an orientation message from the library that provides an overview of the scholarly information environment, the library's core resources, essential services, and instructional opportunities.

Online Tutorials

Online tutorials produced by CSUSB librarians teach and assess basic critical information literacy concepts and skills. Students may view these tutorials independently or they may access them as part of their courses.

Workshops

Librarians teach workshops that students attend on their own time. These workshops are open to everyone. They include a basic workshop targeting First Year students, an intermediate workshop targeting Transfer and Junior students, and Graduate workshops. These workshops are assessed regularly by pre- and post-testing.

Course Support

The library manages the online Critical Information Literacy Laboratory for Faculty to support faculty in their efforts to integrate critical information literacy into their courses, assignments, and class activities. We also offer customized online library guides of course-related information resources, and librarians are available to consult on assignment design and/or signature assignments. Assessment of critical information literacy is integrated ideally into course exams/quizzes/writing assignments.

By-Request Instruction

Librarians teach library instruction sessions at the request of the instructor, either in the library's lab or in the smart classroom. These sessions target upper-division, capstone, and graduate courses in which students produce literature reviews and perform critical analyses of information sources. These sessions are customized to the assignment at hand, and we collaborate with faculty to create complementary library assignments.

Institutional Integration of Critical Information Literacy

Librarians will work with faculty at the program and department levels to assist with integrating critical information literacy into program outcomes and to assess critical information literacy competence.

General Education Program

Working with teaching faculty, librarians will recommend a matrix for critical information literacy across the GE program and plan for appropriate and timely delivery of critical information literacy instruction, either online or in-person. Assessment of critical information literacy competence is accomplished ideally using online portfolios or other context-based means of assessment.

Departmental Learning Outcomes

Librarians are available to discuss departmental goals and collaborate with faculty to recommend strategies to weave critical information literacy into departmental learning outcomes in ways that are pedagogically sound. Assessment of critical information literacy competence is accomplished ideally using online portfolios or other context-based means of assessment.