

Research Skills for First-Year College Students: The Library's Role

Dina Ledwith, SUNY Nassau Community College

Leslie Wong Loock, SUNY Nassau Community College

Shikha Gupta Joseph, SUNY Nassau Community College



- Dedicated to “high quality education and career preparation to meet the needs and interests of the community it serves”
- Maintains an open admission policy
 - Diverse population
 - Traditional and non-traditional students
 - Developmental programs to ensure student success
- Offers associate degrees and certificate and continuing ed programs



21st Century
Information Literacy and
Today's Students

- College students need to be able to identify and evaluate information across all disciplines
- Wide range of research skills and experience among students

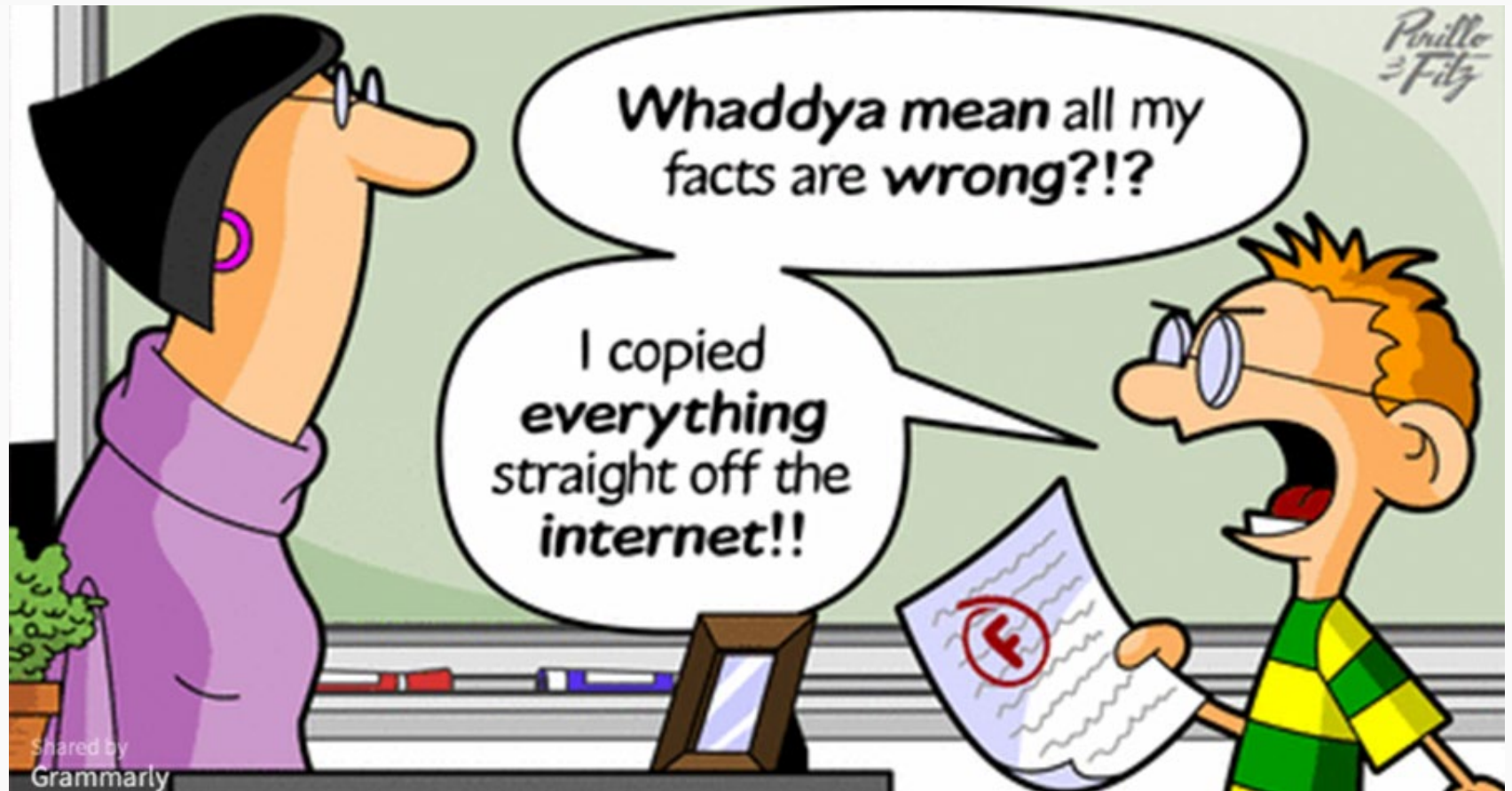


NCC 101: The College Experience

Easing the transition to college with an interactive class

- Learning styles
- Study skills
- Time management
- Degree requirements/advisement
- College resources
- Research methods/Digital literacy

Library Information Literacy Assignment



NCC 101

Library Information Literacy Assignment

- Precursor to Career Research Project
- Foundation for college readiness
- Leveling the playing field

Finding Background Information

Google Searches vs. Subscription Databases

Accessing Databases

Lib Guides

‘Chat Now’ function

Newspapers, Magazines and Journals

Evaluating Sources

Synchronous and Asynchronous Video Options

- ★ Synchronous live Zoom classes for any length (up to 1:15)
 - First time we did shortened sessions
- ★ 1:1 Zoom sessions
 - best mimics reference desk
- ★ Short videos for specific tasks for asynchronous learning
 - Accessible from our web page via YouTube
 - General Information Literacy: <https://youtu.be/jKi5aoJGF2k>
 - Career Assignment: <https://youtu.be/Teu7DsBp3x0>

Live/Synchronous Information Literacy

- **Original purpose: Introduction to library services and resources**
 - No matter what the class, librarians mostly discussed library services
 - Databases/Print library sources discussed for research only
 - Internet seen as enemy or unreliable
- **COVID shutdown and unrealistic expectations of student knowledge of subject and background information**
 - COVID shut down sped up transition to teaching a combination of free and paid for resources
 - Built- in digital literacy training out of necessity
 - Most first year students at NCC need to start from very basic sources.

Ascertaining Student Research Abilities

- **Practical Instruction**
 - Based on the level of experience of the user
 - Spending majority of class time catering to the class needs as opposed to introducing them to library services
 - Directing students to use tools outside of traditional library databases to fulfill their research needs, particularly for background information
 - New York Times
- **Students want 1:1 assistance**
 - Leaving my email for personalized, follow-up if necessary

Information Literacy Tutorials

★ Information Literacy Tutorial via LibWizard

- More attractive to students and faculty
- Better customization options
- Easier to update
- <https://library.ncc.edu/ILT>

★ Digital Literacy Tutorial via BlackBoard

- Easier for faculty integration
- Broad scope for first year college students
 - Topics covered: Digital Citizenship, Social Media, Computer Basics, Internet Safety, Evaluating Information, News Media Literacy

Information Literacy Tutorials New Initiatives

★ Interactive tutorials via LibWizard

- Launching with catalog search tutorial and Psychology scholarly articles search tutorial
- Allows student interaction with side by side screen
- Provides completion certificate to student at end of tutorial

★ Literacy Tutorials via BrightSpace

- Transitioning this fall from Blackboard to BrightSpace
- Review options for creating tutorials in Brightspace

★ Provide combination of traditional video, interactive and Brightspace integrated tutorials

Questions?

Dina Ledwith: dina.ledwith@ncc.edu

Leslie Wong Loock: leslie.wongloock@ncc.edu

Shikha Gupta Joseph: shikha.joseph@ncc.edu