Assessing Students’ Basic Research Skills

Although CSN does not require students to take a basic research skills class for any degree, one of the College’s General Education goals is to develop opportunities for students to learn information literacy skills across the curriculum. CSN’s Information Competency Proficiency exam measures students’ basic college level research skills and is based on standards developed by the Association of College and Research Libraries. The exam tests the information-seeking abilities and research skills that students are expected to obtain in college level coursework.

New Reference Librarian at Cheyenne Campus

Susan Gregg comes to CSN’s Cheyenne campus from Touro University’s medical library where she provided reference service and instruction to students and faculty. She received her Masters degree in library science from the University of North Texas, her Bachelors degree in women’s studies from UNLV and her Associates degree in accounting from CCSN. Prior to becoming a librarian, Susan worked for Macy’s as a department manager, customer service manager, vendor specialist and sales associate.

New Library Databases

The following databases have recently been added to CSN’s Library home page (www.csn.edu/library) under the “Find Articles and Research Information” link:

**Daily Life America**

Every aspect of daily life in America, from pre-colonial times to the present, is brought to life with award winning reference books, primary documents, illustrations and maps. Browse by subject, time period, or region. Also contains current and historical information for each state.

**Folklore and Folklife**

Folklore, myths and folk and fairy tales from around the world are collected and presented with commentary and analysis. Might be used for literature, history, art, anthropology, sociology and more. Subjects include celebrations & rituals, religion & belief, music & dance and more.

**Grove Art Online**

Includes the full text of The Dictionary of Art (34 volumes) and The Oxford Companion to Western Art. Contains over 3,000 art images and line drawings, as well as extensive image links.

**Humanities International Complete**

Provides full text of hundreds of journals, books, and other published sources from around the world covering most disciplines in the humanities.

**JSTOR**

An archive of full text articles from over 600 scholarly journals covering business, health, literature, math, the sciences and more. As an archive, it does not contain current issues of journals.

**Literature Criticism Online**

Full text literary criticism covering most time periods and literary disciplines from classical to contemporary and from short stories and poetry to drama.

**Slavery In America Archive**

A digital collection of over 500 primary source documents brings this important chapter of American history to life.

**Web of Knowledge**

Combines access to three individual databases: Science Citation Index, Biological Abstracts and Medline. The availability of full text articles is limited, but CSN’s Interlibrary Loan service can be used to get the full text.

Making Students Aware of the Library’s Tutorials & Research Guides

From on or off campus, your students can use the Library’s tutorials and research guides by going to CSN’s library home page (www.csn.edu/library) and clicking on “Find Help and Tutorials.” We offer many different online tutorials and research guides that you can incorporate into your courses.

SearchPath teaches students how to effectively use library resources for research assignments. Students click on a “module” and go through the tutorial at their own pace. You can assign any or all of the modules at relevant times during the semester and students can take a quiz at the end of each module that can be printed out and turned into you as proof of completion. SearchPath’s six modules are: 1 – Choosing Sources; 2 – Creating a Search Strategy; 3 – Using the Library Catalog; 4 – Finding Articles in Research Databases; 5 – Using the Web; 6 – Citing Sources.

We also have flash-based tutorials that demonstrate how to find scholarly journal articles and how to search specific databases. If your research assignment requires students to use a scholarly journal, magazine or newspaper article, you might first direct them to one or more of these tutorials.

Our research guides help students with every step of the research process. You may place a direct link to each individual research guide (PDF) in your course web site or use them as handouts or visual aids during your lectures. The following research guides are available: Choosing a Topic; Writing a Thesis Statement; Steps in the Research Process; The Argumentative Essay; Keyword and Subject Searching; Magazines & Journals – The Difference; Comparing Databases & Search Engines; Comparing Directories & Search Engines; Evaluating Web Sites; Searching With Google; APA Style Guide & Sample Paper; MLA Style Guide & Sample Paper.

For more information on the Library’s research guides and tutorials, see our handout for instructors at www.csn.edu/PDFFiles/Library/Infoexam2.pdf
National Library Resources into WebCT

The Library’s guide, “How to Embed Library Resources into WebCT,” will show you the steps required to add a variety of library resources, such as online books and journal articles, directly into your WebCT courses. The guide is on the Library’s home page at www.csn.edu/pages/1762.asp. Also at that url, you’ll find information concerning copyright law as it applies to distance education.

Research Workshops on Fridays at Charleston Campus

College Library Services presents research workshops on Fridays from Feb. 1 through Apr. 25 at the Charleston Campus, C-132 from 10 am to 12 pm.

On Feb. 8, Mar. 14 and Apr. 18, the workshop begins with a presentation, “Research for College Assignments: Everything You Need to Know.” This 40 minute presentation by a librarian covers everything from how to identify and develop a topic to how to cite your sources in MLA or APA style.

All other workshops are “drop-in,” where students receive personalized help from a librarian with their research assignment.

Please tell your students about this great learning opportunity! Visit the Library home page or the campus libraries for a complete schedule of workshops and dates. For more information, contact Won Ha, Reference Librarian, at 651-4622 or won.ha@csn.edu

Sherman Alexie's Warrior Weapons: Imagination and Humor

“Sometimes it's a good day to die, and sometimes it's a good day to have breakfast.” - Thomas, in Smoke Signals (1998) a screenplay by Sherman Alexie

In his author talk at the Clark County Library last November, Sherman Alexie--poet, novelist, screenwriter, stand-up comedian, filmmaker, political commentator--showed Las Vegas why the Boston Globe has called him an "important new voice in American literature." As he sauntered across the stage, his stories cut through stereotypes and exposed false dichotomies. Alexie holds up imagination and humor as the most powerful weapons against narrow thinking, whether by the powerful or the weak. Like the "ba-dup boom" from a stand-up comedy bit, or the juxtaposed images from a haiku, Alexie caught his audience by surprise. Rousing us with a warrior cry, "It's a good day to die!" Alexie set us thinking: on which “good day” is dying more important than breakfast?

- Jack Sawyer, Librarian, Cheyenne Campus

Alexie's screenplay Smoke Signals is available at the Cheyenne campus library at PN1997 .S6115 1998

Embedding Library Resources into WebCT

The Library’s guide, “How to Embed Library Resources into WebCT,” will show you the steps required to add a variety of library resources, such as online books and journal articles, directly into your WebCT courses. The guide is on the Library’s home page at www.csn.edu/pages/1762.asp. Also at that url, you’ll find information concerning copyright law as it applies to distance education.

Questions/comments about this newsletter? Contact Christine Shore at 651-3112 or christine.janssen@csn.edu

PLEASE take our survey!

We need your input!

Go to the Library home page (www.csn.edu/library) and click on “Library User Satisfaction Survey” (left side of page).

All responses will be used for Library service improvement only and will remain confidential.

The survey should take just a few minutes to complete.

Campus Library Information & Spring Semester Hours

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHEYENNE</th>
<th>HENDERSON</th>
<th>CHARLESTON</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rm 2100</td>
<td>Bldg. A, Rm 120</td>
<td>Bldg. C, Rm 167 &amp; Computer Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>Circulation: 651-4014</td>
<td>Circulation: 651-3066</td>
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<td>Reference: 651-4419</td>
<td>Reference: 651-3039</td>
<td>Reference: 651-5729</td>
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<tr>
<td>F &amp; Sa, 9 am to 3 pm</td>
<td>F &amp; Sa, 9 am to 3 pm</td>
<td>F, 8 am to 3 pm (9-3 reference)</td>
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<td>Closed Sundays</td>
<td>Closed Sundays</td>
<td>Sa, 8 am to 3 pm (9-3 reference)</td>
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<td>Su, 10 am to 2 pm (reference closed)</td>
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College Library Services– get the facts!