



May 21, 2009

Office of Adjunct Faculty Support Programs

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Information Literacy

Instructors often assume students possess the necessary knowledge to use their information literacy skills in course assignments, but instructors must understand that students do not always transfer knowledge from one course to another or may never have understood it at all. Therefore, in each class it is necessary to re-train students to choose material appropriate to the subject matter and to cite it properly. In other words, your students must become information literate. According to the Association of Colleges and Research Libraries (2009), information literacy is, “a set of abilities requiring individuals to ‘recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information’” (Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education). This is especially important due to the fact that getting information electronically is easy but it doesn’t necessarily lead to the students getting information that meets your course requirements. Professionals and scientists understand the importance of using peer reviewed information that is reliable and based on something other than speculation or ideology. Students, on the other hand, must be taught how to judge the information they use. In essence, it is the responsibility of instructors to design curriculum that helps students understand

how scientific and reliable information is created, dispensed, and cited. One of the ways this can be accomplished is to work collaboratively with one of the Subject Area Librarians. It is possible to customize an assignment to specific resources related to class content by consulting with your subject area librarian who can help with a variety of ways to actively engage your students. One way this can be done is to work with the librarian to set up a resource page on VSpace, which contains specific links to articles, journals, or databases. The resource page can also contain important search terms relevant to courses and student research. Subject Area Librarians (listed on page 2) can show students how to cite sources in the format specific to your discipline, and they can carefully guide students to sources that instructors deem important to subject matter. Helping students become information literate will create a cadre of students who are able to think more critically and clearly across disciplines.

What is an Information Literate Person?

Information literacy forms the basis for lifelong learning. It is common to all disciplines, to all learning environments, and to all levels of education. It enables learners to master content and extend their investigations, become more self-directed, and assume greater control over their own learning. An information literate individual is able to:

- Determine the extent of information needed
- Access the needed information effectively and efficiently
- Evaluate information and its sources critically
- Incorporate selected information into one’s knowledge base
- Use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- Understand the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information, and access and use information ethically and legally *

SVSU Subject Librarians...

- Jennifer Dean (x7092) Educational Leadership, Educational Technology, Music,
- Anita Dey (x7094) Economics, Finance, Management & Marketing,
- Beth Johns (x2158) Communication, Criminal Justice
- Kirker Kranz (x4240) English, Mathematics, Media, Modern Foreign Language, Physics
- Kathleen Kroll (x7054) English, Psychology, Theater
- John Mauch (x7071) Biology, Chemistry, Engineering
- Scott Mellendorf (x7052) Computer Science, Kinesiology, Social Work, Sociology
- Anne Menard (x7053) Art, Educational Leadership, Educational Technology, Occupational Therapy, Teacher Education
- Avril Packard (x2152) Geography, History, Law, Philosophy, Political Science

Important Dates

May 25—Memorial Day (No Classes)

June 12—Last Day to Withdraw with “W” Grade

June 19—Last Day to Withdraw with a “WP” or “WF” Grade

June 27—Classes End, Final Exams Begin

June 29—Summer Classes Begin

Policies and Procedures

Adjunct Faculty Policies and Procedures are now available on our Web site at www.svsu.edu/adjunct Please visit this link for information regarding employment requirements, instructional requirements, compensation structure, and eligible perks.

Summer Technology Institute

Saturday, May 30, 2009
9 A.M. to 3 P.M.
Science East 206

Introduction to VSpace

Wednesday, June 17, 2009
12:00 to 2:00 P.M.
Zahnow 302

Zimbra Email Training

Friday, May 22, 2009
10 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.
Curtiss 220

Wednesday, May 27, 2009
2:30 P.M. to 4 P.M.
Curtiss 141

Friday, May 29, 2009
2:30 P.M. to 4 P.M.
Curtiss 220

Tuesday, June 2, 2009
2:30 P.M. to 4 P.M.
Curtiss 141

Monday, June 8, 2009
2:30 P.M. to 4 P.M.
Curtiss 141

Friday, June 12, 2009
10 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.
Curtiss 141

Thursday, June 18, 2009
2:30 P.M. to 4 P.M.
Curtiss 141

Wednesday, June 24, 2009
10 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.
Curtiss 141

*www.svsu.edu/workshops