SMART SEARCHING:
An Online Information Fluency Tutorial Tailored Specifically to Introductory Engineering Students

Eric Resnis
Engineering Librarian/
Instruction Coordinator
TRENDS IN INFORMATION LITERACY INSTRUCTION

- Online Information Literacy Tutorials
  - The Texas Information Literacy Tutorial (TILT)
  - Georgetown University’s Scholarly Research and Academic Integrity Tutorial

- PRIMO by ACRL
  Peer-Reviewed Instructional Materials Online

- One-size-fits-all vs. Subject-specific
TUTORIAL CREATION

• Smart Searching: Finding, Citing & Evaluating Information
• Learning Modules
• Introduction, Tools, Techniques & Practice
• Á la carte content
WELCOME EAS 101 STUDENTS!

Presented here are tutorials and links that will help you learn new skills and find the information you need to successfully complete your EAS assignments. Remember, the information skills you learn here will also help you in your other classes and personal pursuits.

On the left of this page you will find short tutorials that will help you learn how to find and evaluate information. Clicking on the links will take you to different tutorials. You can also start here.
Smart Searching
Finding, Citing & Evaluating Information

EAS 101

WHAT AM I GOING TO LEARN?

After you have completed this Finding Articles Module you will:

- Understand what a research database is and when to use one
- Understand the difference between scholarly and popular articles
- Have learned time-saving and precision-improving search techniques
- Know how to use Business Search Premier—a database you may use for EAS 101 (but remember, this database will also serve your research needs for other classes too!)

A NOTE ABOUT FINDING ARTICLES

To find articles you need to use an article database, also called a research database, or just database. Some articles are available on the web, but when you use a database, you are systematically covering your topic. Databases provide access by subject, date, author, and many other categories that a web search cannot. You will save time and effort, and find more precisely what you need, by using a database to find articles.

WHY USE JOURNAL ARTICLES?

Information comes in many formats, such as books, newspaper articles, journal articles, web pages and videos. What’s so special about a journal article? Journal articles typically:

- Provide current information written by an expert in the field
  - Published quicker than a book
- Provide information about a specific aspect of a topic
EAS 102 Quiz Instructions
January 8th, 2007

Hey 102 students......

Before lab next week....Take a stroll through the tutorial and be sure to complete the quiz. To take the quiz, click on the “Final Quiz” link on the left toolbar. Login with your unique id/password and choose your lab section. Then complete the quiz.

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- This is what I did, how and my results
- Add to the body of scientific knowledge
TUTORIAL “ADS”
IMPLEMENTATION

- Fall 2004: Introduced to BMZ 115/116
- Fall 2006: Introduced to EAS 101 (w’ final quiz - not required)
- Spring 2007: Introduced to EAS 102 in conjunction with library instruction (quiz required)
- Fall 2007: Becomes assignment in EAS 101
EVALUATION

- EAS 101/102
  - Final Quiz with Usability Questions
  - Homework from EAS 102 instruction
FINAL QUIZ

- 5 Questions Randomly Selected (set of 10)
- 3 Usability Questions
- Quiz Login (Results in Database)
QUIZ RESULTS

• >75% Scored 4 or 5 correctly
• <3% answered 0 or 1 correctly
• Best performance: academic integrity, peer-review journals, OhioLINK
• Worst performance: Journal citations, choosing resources
EAS 102 HOMEWORK

- Lab since Spring 2006
- Using Catalog/Academic Search Complete/Engineering Databases
- Spring 2007 (and subsequent semesters) includes 2 points for tutorial completion
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Tutorial Evolution

- Fall 2007: Introduction of EScholar
  - Academic Integrity/Basic Info Lit Tutorial

- Changes in Course Format
  - Focus on specific design assignments
  - Inconsistency between different semesters
CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

• Team approach invaluable (content/design)
• Support from departmental faculty
• Assume this will be seen by students as “just another assignment”
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http://elearn.lib.muohio.edu/science/eas/
http://elearn.lib.muohio.edu/science/eas102/

Powerpoint & Multimedia files are available at -
http://elearn.lib.muohio.edu/science/asee/

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