

Information Literacy (IL) – Proposed Way Forward

The Library aims to increase the amount of IL training provided to students within the curriculum across all levels and faculties. To be effective, it is essential that the delivery of this is integrated into programmes and well-timed so as to be directly relevant to students. There are already many good examples of IL teaching at the University of Ulster. However, in order to extend such practice to all students, the Library needs to develop a *Strategy* for embedding IL skills into the curriculum based on the SCOUNL 'Seven Pillars' and which is endorsed by University Management.

Such a Strategy would help to develop closer collaboration between academic staff and subject librarians in order to improve integration of IL skills into university programmes for the benefit of students. As part of the Strategy, the Library would recommend that, for first years initially, at least one module at a particular level of study could be identified as key for inclusion of a significant IL element which would involve direct input from the subject librarians.

The Library would also like to see IL identified as a key skill in university programmes alongside the existing Ulster graduate qualities. In this way, IL should attain the profile in the curriculum which it needs in order to be adopted evenly across all subject areas rather than depending on ad hoc initiatives. This will be taken forward through a Library submission on how it will contribute to the implementation of the University's new Learning and Teaching Strategy.

To take forward the work of the Library's Information Literacy Sub-Group, below is a set of actions outlining the planned work of the Group over the new academic year.

Action	Target Date
As part of its submission, the Library to include the development of IL skills in the University's first annual action plan for implementing the new Learning and Teaching Strategy.	January 2014
An agreed set of IL competencies are drawn up for post induction (1 st and final years, Researchers/Academics) and made available on the Library Staff Intranet.	September 2013
Consideration is given to how best to share and promote best practice (e.g. repository; library seminars) with implementation of ideas wherever practical (eg. repository of Turning Point slides for induction and subject classes).	July 2013 onwards

<p>Cross-faculty consultation with academic staff and students to take place through meetings/surveys to help determine IL needs and to evaluate our current approach to IL. Feedback from these consultations will also be used to help in the formulation of a Strategy for embedding IL into the curriculum. The Strategy to be generic but aligned with the University's curriculum and structures.</p>	<p>October 2013 - March 2014</p>
<p>The planned Strategy to be endorsed by appropriate university committees.</p>	<p>May 2014</p>
<p>The planned Strategy to be used as a basis for the enhancement of the IL provision delivered by subject librarians during the academic year 2014/15. In the main, this will be through building on existing links and practice and extending the IL programme by developing other IL sessions which may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How to reference</i> • <i>Advanced Google Searching</i> • <i>Bibliometrics</i> • <i>Getting Your Published/Raising your Research Profile</i> <p>In liaison with each Faculty, a member of academic staff (eg. Learning and Teaching Co-ordinator) to work with their Faculty Sub-Librarian to enhance the existing programme of IL provision which meets the needs of the Faculty. This is particularly important for all first year undergraduate programmes and where the existing provision is patchy or absent.</p>	<p>Following endorsement of Strategy</p>
<p>Throughout the consultation process, Sub-Librarians will update academic staff on developments at appropriate faculty meetings.</p>	<p>Throughout 2013/14 academic year</p>
<p>Identification of practical ways to measure the impact and to evaluate the success of any IL training. Use of the Banner email system to be adopted on a sampled basis for seeking feedback from</p>	<p>Throughout 2013/14 academic year</p>

students on the usefulness of IL sessions and offering further help and advice.	
Consideration given to the introduction of peer observation for all subject librarians to further develop teaching skills and to enhance personal development.	During Semester 1 2013/14
Create, develop and maintain an IL Sub-Group website on the Library Intranet.	Created by July 2013 and on-going development
Maintain the currency of the Library's online induction/information skills modules.	Initial revision undertaken by August 2013 and on-going revisions depending on new library developments
Develop and maintain the IL subject guide.	Created by June 2013 with on-going revisions depending on developments