Meeting them Halfway: Using YouTube in a First Year Information Fluency Program

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First Year Program at Macalester

- 480 First year students
- 32 First year classes (16 students per class)
- No "common experience"
- Some college-wide requirements
 - Writing component
 - At least 1 library session (2006)

Library/ITS First Year Sessions

- Librarians & ITS Academic Information Associates
- Introduction to library resources and ITS resources
- Hands-on experience for students
- Same basic format for 10 years
 - 1–3 sessions, tailored to class
 - Optional modules: scholarly communication, RefWorks, more disciplinary resources

Challenges

- May or may not have library research assignment
- Immediate information vs. later assignments
- Prep time and scheduling
- Expansion of teaching role for library liaisons
- Incorporating more ITS practical skills (e.g. saving a file to the network)
- Baseline for assessment

Mission

- "Common experience" first session
 - Introduction to library and ITS resources
- Engaging
 - Video on broad, interdisciplinary topic
 - Message generating questions
- Script for liaisons/AlAs to follow
- Mimic scholarly process

The session

- Introduction: goals
- Library/Network overview
- Student scholars: Critical evaluation of information
 - Video
 - Finding the evidence
 - Library web site; Macalester Worldcat; Academic Search Premier
 - Worksheet (link broken, see Related Files on Digital Commons)
- Disciplinary conversations
 - Create bibliography & save to network

Goals Met?

- Easier to schedule and less preparation
 - All 32 sessions in September
 - 13 classes had multiple sessions (Oct-Nov)
- Liaisons & AlAs comfortable
- Students were engaged
- Baseline met for all first year students

Information Fluency Goals

- Standard 1: The information literate student determines the nature and extent of the information needed.
- Standard 2: The information literate student accesses needed information effectively and efficiently.
- Standard 3: The information literate student evaluates information and its sources critically and incorporates selected information into his or her knowledge base and value system.
 - Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education, Association of College and Research Libraries, http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/standards/informationliteracycompetency.cfm.

What we liked

- Discussion
 - Interesting finding out where students would look for information. More critical of Wikipedia and Google than we expected
 - Inventive when came to looking for articles from their discipline
- Hands-on with Resources
 - Both Library and ITS
- Fall less difficult than in other years
- Students liked it too

For Fall 2009

- Streamline for 60 minute presentations
- Discussion critical
 - Tips for liaisons when students not participating
- Include RefWorks for 90 minute presentations
- Find new video/topic?

Questions?