

Enhancing Library Instruction with Crossword Puzzles in Kinesiology Classes



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"What we have to learn to do, we learn by doing."
~Aristotle



It wasn't too difficult but required me to look up info in the handouts. It would be fun to do these kinds of activities in other classes.

I liked it. Haven't done a crossword since 10th grade. I'd love to do more of them.

Some were difficult, so I had to ask some of my peers. However, I did find it helpful.

I really enjoyed this activity because it was informative and opened me up to a broader selection of search engines for use for my research paper.

1 Introduction

The goal was to determine if using crossword puzzles increases students' engagement in learning information literacy concepts.

2 Literature review

The students

- Generation Y is oriented toward images, not linear text. (Manuel, 2007)
- "The key is to think EDU-tainment as opposed to ENTER-tainment." (Smith, 2007)

The science of the brain

- Discovery learning architectures:**
 - Case-based learning
 - Incidental learning
 - Learning by exploring
 - Learning by reflection
 - Simulation-based learning

The benefits

- There is no strong evidence in the literature that using games in classroom are beneficial to student learning. It is descriptive and anecdotal in nature. (Leach & Sugarman, 2005)
- Studies have shown that games are beneficial when specific concepts are targeted and game is used as a practice tool. (Leach & Sugarman, 2005)
- Crosswords are useful for:
 - Reinforcing concepts from lecture
 - Keeping students engaged.

The instructional strategies

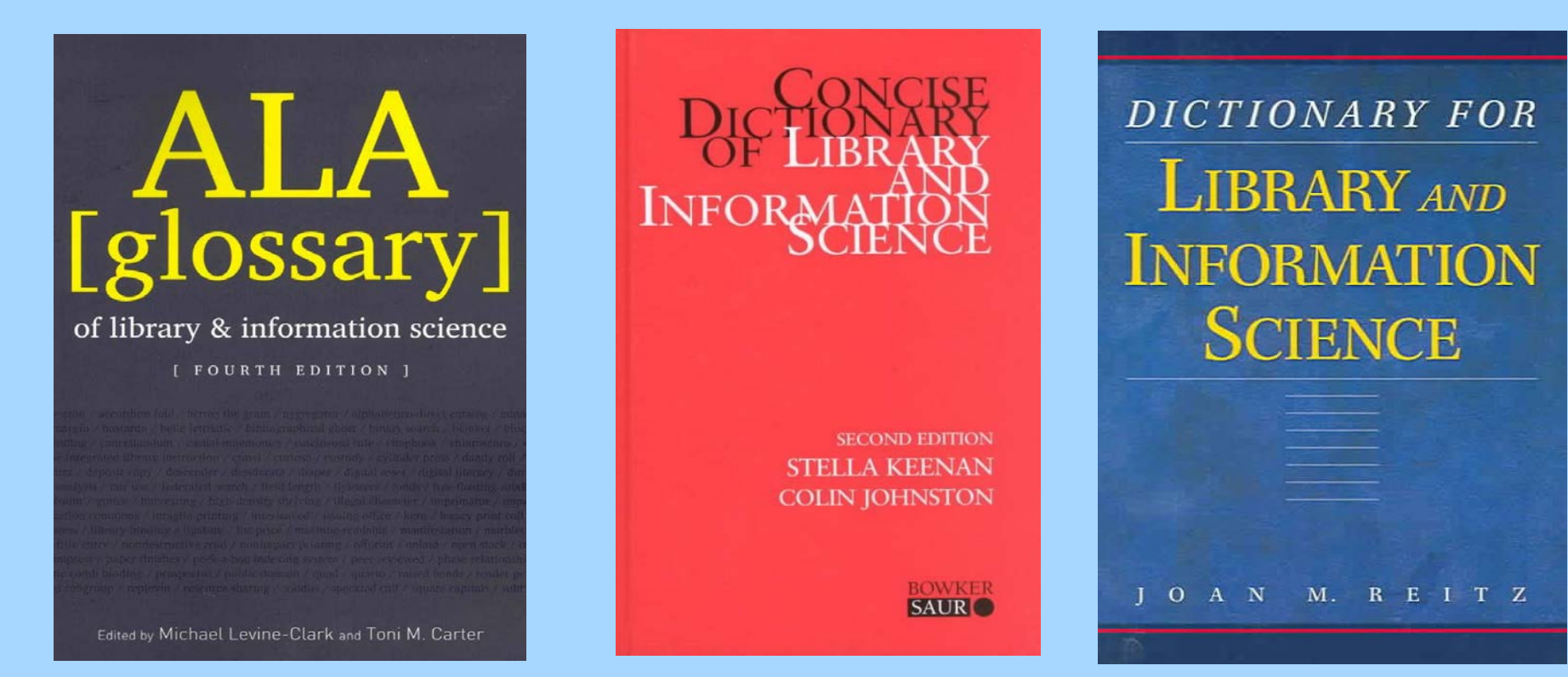
- Use as little lecture as possible in conjunction with active learning exercises. Snell (2000)
- Use real life examples, for instance showing how evidence-based practice literature can be used to change policies and standard beliefs. Kipnis & Childs (2004)
- Use a combination of instructional methods such as lecture, demonstration, Q&A, and hands-on practice in order to accommodate many learning styles and instructional preferences. (Leach & Sugarman, 2005)

3 Methods

Crossword puzzles were designed with a free online tool:
<http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/CrissCrossSetupForm.asp>



Terms were adapted from library sciences dictionaries.



Crossword puzzles were distributed during library instruction sessions in five kinesiology classes with a total of 101 students.

Print handouts were provided to students as a supplemental material not covered during the 15-minutes lecture. Handouts' content included suggested library resources for students to complete their research papers ranging from searching tips, discovery tools, criteria for evaluating articles, list of health related databases, to writing effectively, citing other's ideas, and formatting citations in APA citation style.

Completed crossword puzzles were collected either in class and if not completed in class, instructor received them at the next class session.

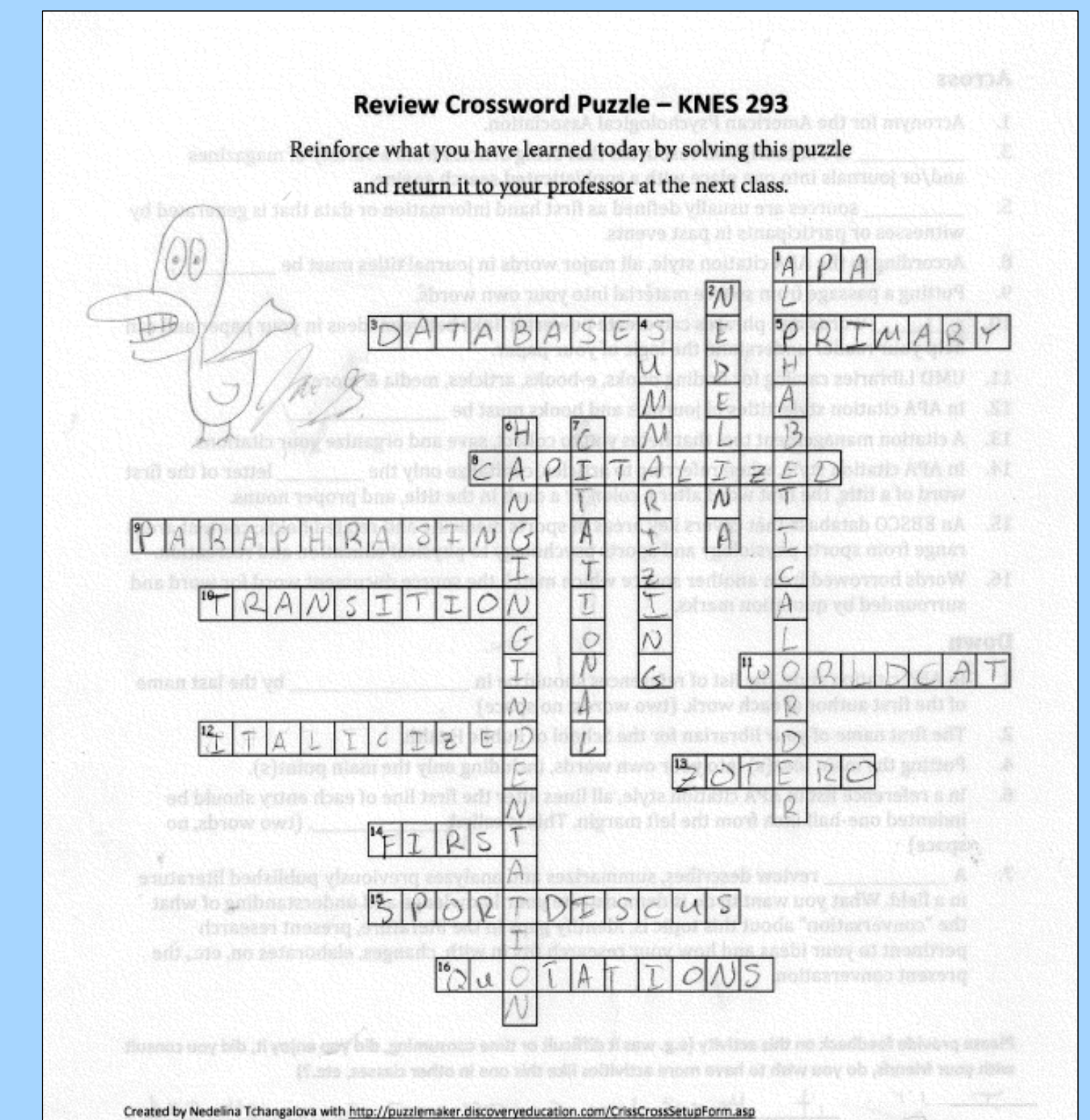
Feedback from students was solicited in writing on the back side of the completed crossword puzzles.

4 Results

The crossword puzzles were completed by a total of 64 students, which yielded a response rate of 63% of the total of 101 students enrolled in all five classes.

Nearly one third of students submitted written feedback on this activity:

- They indicated that crossword puzzles were a fun way to review resources available through the libraries and wished to have more of them in other classes.
- Only a few students found the crossword puzzles challenging and time consuming but a few others liked the challenge and worked with a friend.



Across

- Acronym for the American Psychological Association.
- are subscription resources that bring articles from a variety of magazines and/or journals into one place with a sophisticated search engine.
- sources are usually defined as first hand information or data that is generated by witnesses or participants in past events.
- According to the APA citation style, all major words in journal titles must be _____.
- Putting a passage from source material into your own words.
- _____ words and phrases can create powerful links between ideas in your paper and can help your reader understand the logic of your paper.
- UMD Libraries catalog for finding books, e-books, articles, media & more.
- In APA citation style, titles of journals and books must be _____.
- A citation management tool that helps you to collect, save and organize your citations.
- In APA citation style, when referring to articles, capitalize only the _____ letter of the first word of a title, the first word after a colon or a dash in the title, and proper nouns.
- An EBSCO database that covers key areas of sports medicine and related fields; content areas range from sports physiology and sports psychology to physical education and recreation.
- Words borrowed from another source which match the source document word for word and surrounded by quotation marks.

Down

- In APA citation style, the list of references should be in _____ by the last name of the first author of each work. (two words, no space)
- The first name of your librarian for the School of Public Health.
- Putting the main idea(s) into your own words, including only the main point(s).
- In a reference list in APA citation style, all lines after the first line of each entry should be indented one-half inch from the left margin. This is called _____ (two words, no space)
- A _____ review describes, summarizes and analyzes previously published literature in a field. What you want to do is demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of what the "conversation" about this topic is, identify gaps in the literature, present research pertinent to your ideas and how your research fits in with, changes, elaborates on, etc. the present conversation.

Please provide feedback on this activity (e.g. was it difficult or time consuming, did you enjoy it, did you consult with your friends, do you wish to have more activities like this one in other classes, etc.)

I enjoyed this activity because it was challenging but fun at the same time. It was a great way to review what was in the presentation.

5 Conclusion

When hunting for the answers, students perceived that this assignment prompted them to consult the handouts distributed in class in addition to exploring the library's web site. Using crossword puzzles is a creative way to reinforce material covered in library instruction classes.

References

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