

Information Literacy: Arming the Student

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Abstract

Like many educational institutions Whitireia Community Polytechnic has embarked on increasing the information literacy of its students and staff. In one course in particular we are trialing a targeted set of Information Literacy education in order to increase the quality of written assessments submitted by students. The Bachelor of Information Technology year one paper (IT101 Communications) was run for the first time at Whitireia last year. What was evident is that the overall quality of assignments received from students was poor, particularly in the ability of students to search out and cite information.

Keywords

Information Literacy, Education, Communication.

Introduction

The analysis of the first year of teaching degree communications has found a discrepancy in the expected outputs and the actual results achieved by students. This has led to an analysis of the initial expectations and the module as a whole.

This poster presentation is written to define the actions taken by the School of Computing at Whitireia Polytechnic to reduce the discrepancies. This will also lead into the development of a longitudinal research study observing the link between expected learning outcomes of the School of Computing and the achieved learning outcomes of the students based on the reports they have to write in IT101 Communications over the next five years.

Research Methodology

Initial evaluation compares the 2000 and 2001 intakes of the BInfoTech degree. Observation of the first year intake of the module IT101 (Communications) led to the recognition that the student body had insufficient skills in the areas of finding information and critically analysing the information that they have found. The action implemented as a result of this was to provide the second intake of student's core skills in searching the World Wide Web, evaluating web pages, critically analysing information based on priori and a posteriori knowledge and developing logical argumentative structure. This has been implemented with a defined structure for writing research reports for business and an introduction to the scientific method of researching.

This poster looks at the how the researchers intend to solve these discrepancies, by the implementation of an action research methodology, and what the expected outcomes are going to be for this research.