

Hiding library training in other classes

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- Students not keen on library classes.
- Students not convinced by “it’s important”.
- Optimism bias?
- What do they care about?



University of the West of Scotland

- 19,500 students on 4 Scottish campuses.
- Many non-traditional students.
- Wide range of subjects including science, engineering, creative industries, social sciences, nursing.

Image based on http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Scottish_universities_template_map.png

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Heriot-Watt University

- Around 7000 students on Edinburgh campus.
- 1/3 Scottish campus students are non-UK.
- Mostly science, engineering and technology degrees. Also textiles, business, languages.

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Hiding IL in first year essay classes

- Taught with Effective Learning Tutor.
- Two sessions:
 1. introduction to essay writing (tutorials).
 2. essay feedback (lecture).
- What did we do ...

Writing styles (group work)

Text 3

Institutes link up for dairy cattle research work

SCOTLAND yesterday consolidated its position as the world leader in dairy cattle genetics with the launch of a new Edinburgh-based scientific consortium by Deputy Rural Affairs Minister John Home Robertson.

He said that the new link between the Scottish Agricultural College, the Roslin Institute and Edinburgh University was an important milestone.

The Edinburgh consortium will have 12 of the world's leading experts in dairy breeding and genetics as well as another 40 support staff working in three institutes.

costs and some of the negative consequences of the production focus."

"The emphasis on welfare and in reducing production costs is becoming even more important because of the steep drop in dairy profitability. Reducing costs of production even further will be essential," Mr Home Robertson underlined the Executive's commitment to agricultural research.

He said the consortium will be well placed to consider research issues that are needed to help align today's dairy cattle breeding with tomorrow's consumer demands for affordability as well as

Activity

UNIVERSITY OF
WLS

- Which texts use a style appropriate for academic writing?
- Which examples would you use as evidence/references in your own writing? Why?
- Think about:
 - Source
 - Purpose
 - Audience
 - Structure
 - Language
 - Information and evidence

Centre for Academic and Professional Development

When to reference (in pairs)

Seed dispersal by ants

Mycemecochory is the process where ants are used to spread plant seeds.

Mycemecochorous plants have evolved specialist structures called elaiosomes, which are fleshy structures attached to their seeds. Ants take the seeds to their nest and feed the elaiosomes to their larvae. After the larvae have consumed the elaiosome, the ants take the seed to their waste area. Some researchers believe this helps the seeds to germinate as the waste area is rich in nutrients from ant droppings, but other researchers state that this soil does not contain any more nutrients than the area surrounding the parent plant, which will have been enriched with leaf litter.

Mycemecochorous plants include species of violet, primrose, hepatica, cyclamen, anemone,

Class discussion of plagiarism

Skeletal muscle tissue is highly specialized to generate force and thus movement. The major function of muscle is to produce motion, to aid in the maintenance of posture, and to produce heat.

Birk, A., MacLaren, G. and George, K. (2005) *Just Ask! Exercise Physiology*, Wokingham: BSI Scientific Publishers

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Is this plagiarism?

<http://www.uws.ac.uk/library/>

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- Small changes in text and words moved around.
- Not different enough - not showing comprehension.

Is this plagiarism? YES

<http://www.uws.ac.uk/library/>

- Three activities about essay writing:
 1. Styles of writing.
 2. When to reference.
 3. Plagiarism.
- ... two of these are traditional library topics, hidden in an essay class.

Student opinions

- What were the most useful things you learnt in this class?
 - Referencing 75.2%
 - Plagiarism 36.2%
- Things they liked:
 - “pointed out how to use textbooks, the web to help with essays”
 - “working with examples to practically understand referencing”
 - “discussing with other students”

Essay feedback class

- Same cohort.
- Essays submitted via TurnItIn. Got added to the VLE as lecturers so we could see these – very useful!
- Alison spoke about problems with essay writing, e.g., lack of structure.
- I covered finding/using illustrations, and referencing (again!)

Other hidden library training

- 2nd year PDP “mini-conferences”.
- Organised by the department:
- Study skills:
 - Library session: “Using evidence in your coursework”.
 - Covered note-making (vs note-taking), referencing, using TurnItIn.
- Careers:
 - Library session: “Researching employers”.
 - Too early for these students?

Tips for getting into curriculum

- Use department meetings.
- Volunteer to help: offer classes about any information literacy problems.
 - Taught classes on topics I initially knew nothing about - reading techniques, note-taking, etc.
- Make contact with other support departments and do joint classes.

Tips for student engagement

- Design class from student viewpoint:
 - needs to be relevant to students’ interests/worries.
 - Students aren’t studying to be librarians.
- Be convinced that your class is interesting:
 - students respond to your enthusiasm.

- Think carefully about name of your class:
 - “Avoiding plagiarism” →
 - “Copy & Paste: Just Say No” →
 - “Using evidence in your coursework”

Not entirely successful ...

- “Library induction”
- “Library resources”
- “Using the library”

- Need to improve on these titles so that students see relevance.

Lessons I've learnt

- Don't give up on idea too quickly ...
- ... but be ready to change classes that aren't working.
- Try to get lecturers to link classes to an assignment ...
- ... also offer to do feedback after assignment.

Future plans

- Shorter IL input within standard lecture.
 - Difficult to get an hour in crowded curriculum.
 - Some negative feedback from students about “taking up teaching time”.
- Want to do 10-15 minutes, e.g., in lecture/lab where students are given assignments.