



Graduate Information Literacy Skills @ UCC Library

Supporting our postgraduate STEM researchers

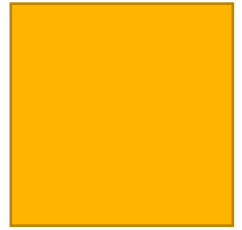
A TRADITION OF
INDEPENDENT
THINKING



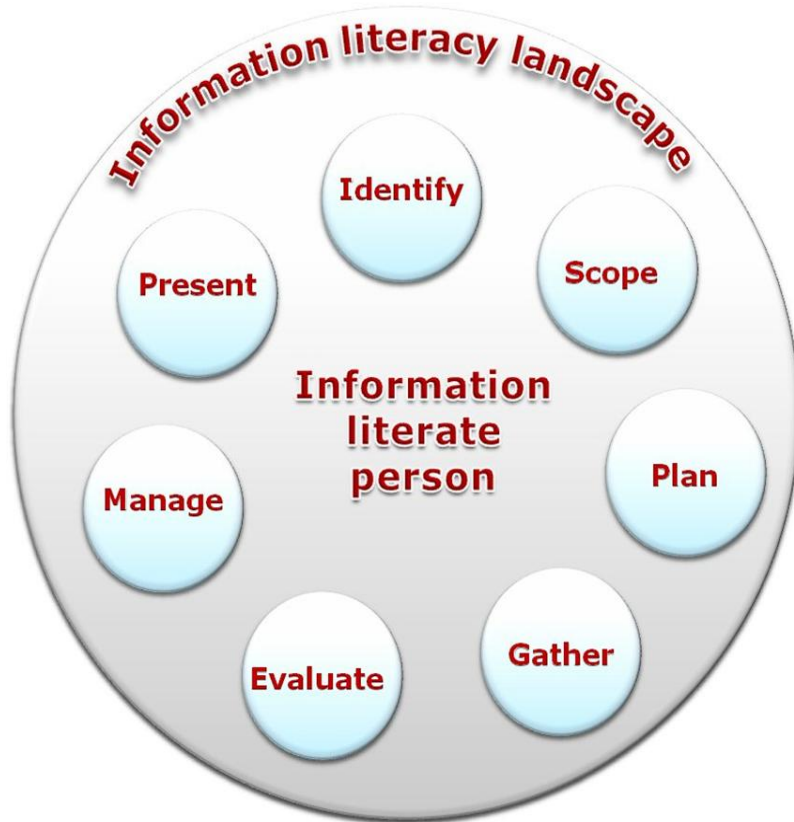
UCC

University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

Information Literacy Framework



SCONUL Seven Pillars



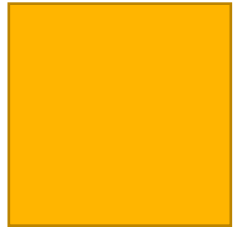
<https://www.sconul.ac.uk/sites/default/files/document/s/coremodel.pdf> accessed 21/11/17, p.13

ACRL Frames:

- Authority is Constructed and Contextual
- Information Creation as a Process
- Information has Value
- Research as Inquiry
- Scholarship as Conversation
- Searching as Strategic Exploration

http://www.ala.org/acrl/sites/ala.org.acrl/files/content/issues/infolit/Framework_ILHE.pdf accessed 21/11/17, p.2

How it Started (in Ireland)

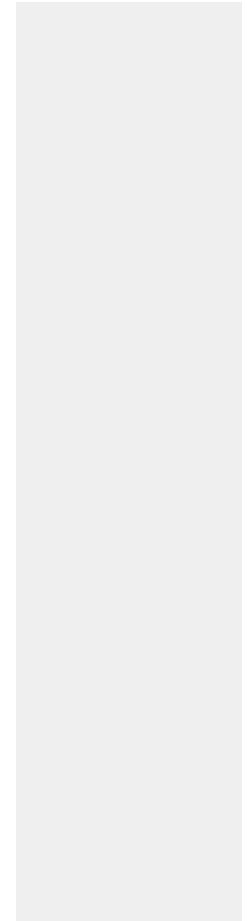


April 2007:

3 Irish Universities came together to develop a Generic Skills Project/Module for PhDs.

Key skills to be developed

- Identification of current level of information skills
- Development of existing skills and acquisition of new skills
- In-depth knowledge of key resources available
- Techniques to evaluate and use quality resources
- Maximise research time and effort and avoid duplication
- Learn to adapt and apply skills learned to new research



SIF Generic Skills Project

6 Modules – UCC, NUIG, TCD

Chair: Professor Alan Kelly, UCC

Module Title	Lead Institution
Information Literacy (IL) (initial bid – Marie Reddan)	NUIG
Commercialisation of Research and Technology Transfer	NUIG
Teaching and Learning	UCC
Statistics and Data Analysis	UCC
Research Methods for Life Sciences	TCD
Research Ethics	TCD

Charting the Progression 1

- Initial partial pilot May 2008
- Full pilot October 2008 –February 2009(60+)
- 2nd Delivery in UCC –June 2009
- Delivery to all - September 2009

The project also produced an online video –

<http://booleweb.ucc.ie/infolit>

Charting the Progression 2

UCC took the lead on T&L and is the only University Library that successfully made this project into a 5 credit bearing module – PG6009 - approved by the Academic Board.

- At the beginning the project/module was intended for STEM students but with a generic content that can be applied to other disciplines. It is fully evaluated and a formal assessment is in place. The Dean of Graduate studies sits on the exam board (extern) with us and signs off on the assessment.

Delivery

In November for Arts and Humanities incl. Social Sciences (CACSSS)

In February for SEFS and Public Health (2 separate delivery)

Feedback

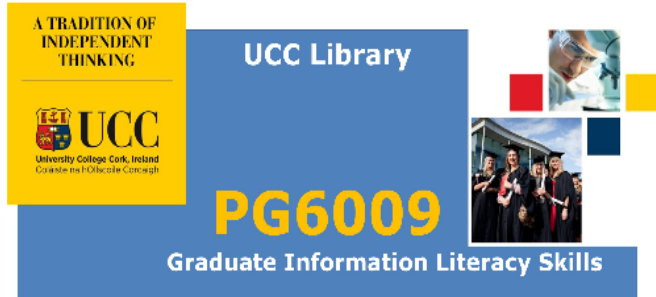
Engaging, accessible, useful. This was to date the most effective, most well structures module of PG6009.

Information was very useful especially for someone at the beginning of a PhD. Supplementary material is also very useful. I enjoyed the presenter who was extremely knowledgeable and had key advice to inform the students when conducting searches in their research.

Where are we now

(<http://libguides.ucc.ie/postgraduate/pg6009>)

PG6009



A TRADITION OF INDEPENDENT THINKING

UCC Library

PG6009

Graduate Information Literacy Skills

UCC University College Cork, Ireland Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

Images: A person using a microscope, a group of students, and a building.

Unit 1: Research Resource Discovery

Unit 2: Using the web effectively and evaluating research resource results

Unit 3: Tracking down results and keeping up to date

Unit 4: Managing your information using EndNote

Unit 5: Ethics in using information

Unit 6: Publishing and disseminating your research

Unit 7: Using Archives and Special Collections for research in Ireland (optional)

Next Dates: CACSS/Business & Law - 13-16 November 2017

SEFS/Medicine - 12-15 February 2018

Online tutorial



Module Information

PG6009 Graduate Information Literacy Skills

Co-ordinator: Richard Bradfield, Liaison Librarian

Module Objective:

To give postgraduate students an introduction to the principles and practice of Information Literacy, as applied to PhD research; to enable postgraduate students to audit and update their Information Literacy Skills by expanding and acquiring a portfolio of Information Literacy Skills; to develop those skills which will enhance the quality of their research and expand their career opportunities in our knowledge-based economy.

Students who register for the module will undertake a series of face-to-face sessions and work through an on-line set of course materials; for the award of 5 credits students must attend all core units and complete a short assessment on the relevance of what they have learned to their own research.

Learning Outcomes:

Develop effective strategies to locate and access relevant information

- Analyse and critically evaluate research findings (yours & others)
- Demonstrate and apply a range of these skills as part of your wider research portfolio
- Develop effective approaches to keep up to date with the latest research in your area
- Manage your research information saving valuable time and effort
- Identify the legal and ethical issues relating to the use of information
- Publish and present information in an effective way
- Justify the application of these information literacy skills to your specific research

Target Audience: PhD & Research Masters

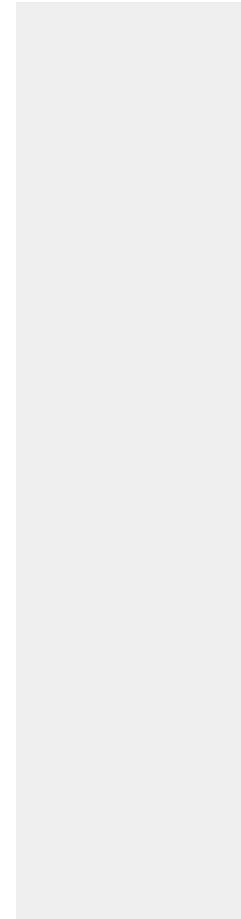
This module will be run separately for the relevant students in CACSSS, and SEFS and Medicine & Health

Duration: 20 hours

Credit Weighting: 5 credits

Proposed Start Date:

Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences 13-16 November 2017 (block delivery)

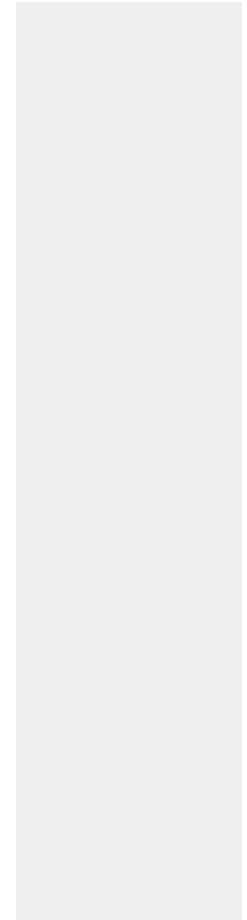


New Ventures

- Impressed by the results of their PhDs & Research Masters taking PG6009, Dept of Epidemiology & Public Health initiated the idea of embedding it in their taught Masters in 2013
- Approached UCC Library – we were keen to explore possibilities - agreed to trial & adopt it 2013/14

Challenges

- Needed to switch from pass/fail to a proper marking system – a new learning curve for us
- Now we have EH6091 – an integrated collaboration with the Department of Public Health in UCC awarding 5 credits for taught masters taking the same module.
- 33 took the module in 2017.



What next?

(<https://www.ucc.ie/en/graduatestudies/structured/>)

Due to a new structured PhD model, all departments are now offering same/different aspects of IL with specific emphasis on subject areas. Examples:

- PG6001 STEPS - Scientific Training for Enhanced Postgraduate Studies
- PG6004 Getting Started with Graduate Research and Generic Skills
- PG6015 An Introduction to Research Ethics (Engineering)
- PG6020 Business Research Skills

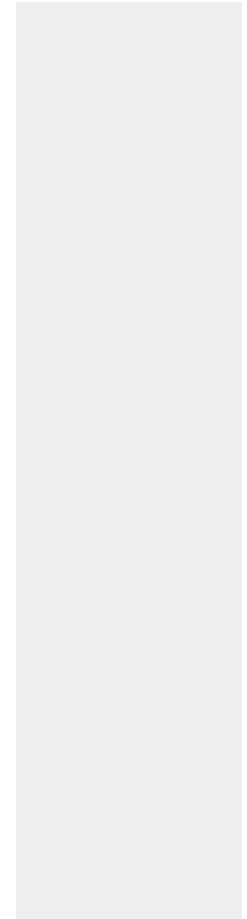
With the exception of the last one, none of the others have used the word “Library staff” under the heading – “Lecturers”.

Collaboration???

Role of the College Liaison Librarians in promoting what the Library offers – marketing

Role of the College Liaison Librarians in “educating” academics about the “added value” the library can offer to their teaching – scaffolding modules and trying to find “champions”

Role of “Library Staff” in providing an excellent “reference interview” process and escalating the queries to appropriate areas for “specialised” help – promoting the library as the place to go if you need information



Any Questions??

How does your library support postgraduates in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics – could be Masters students, PhD researchers or anyone asking more complicated questions?

