Exploring the Effectiveness of an Information Literacy Programme for Research Students

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City University of Hong Kong
How Did We Start?

A library workshop request was made by the instructor of the course SS8804 Enhancing Social Science Competence in late 2017.

- CityU e-Resources
- Internet Resources
- Reference Management Tools
Online Library Course for SS8804 – The Pilot

4 online modules were offered in Sep 2018.

1. Discovering Library Resources
2. Exploring More Resources and Tools for Effective Research
3. Citation Made Easy – Using EndNote
4. Getting Ready to Share Your Research

All Instruction Librarians were involved in the course design and development.

Feedback was encouraging.
Course Features

**HOW?**

- Run on Canvas (The Learning Management System (LMS) at CityU)
- Self-paced
- 4 modules + 1 Face-to-Face/Zoom class
- Weekly basis
- 1-3 hours per module

**WHAT?**

- Step-by-step instructions
- Video tutorials
- Must-know tips
- Hands-on activities
- Quizzes
- Pre-module & post-module surveys
Online Library Courses since 2019/20 Semester A

17 Online Library Courses were developed for 11 Departments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College / School / Department</th>
<th>Number of Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College of Business</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Creative Media</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Energy and Environment</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Applied Social Sciences</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Biomedical Engineering</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Asian and International Studies</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Electrical Engineering</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Infectious Diseases and Public Health</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Linguistics and Translation</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Media and Communication</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To facilitate scholarly research by providing information about the Library resources, services, tools, and more.

Enhanced to 6 Modules in Sep 2020

6 Modules

1. Discovering Library Resources
2. Using Library Databases
3. Finding & Evaluating Internet Resources
4. Academic Honesty
5. Citation Made Easy - EndNote
6. Getting Ready to Share Your Research
Module 1
Discovering Library Resources

Using CityU Libraryfind
Search platform for locating library resources

Finding Journal Articles

Using BrowZine

Finding Theses and Dissertations
Module 2
Using Library Databases

- Scopus
- Web of Science
- PsycINFO
- InCites Journal Citation Reports
Module 3
Finding & Evaluating Internet Resources

- Using Google Scholar
- Finding Data, Statistics, Datasets and More
- Evaluating Internet Sources
Module 4

Academic Honesty

- Preventing Plagiarism
- Systematic/Excessive Downloading
- Using Turnitin
Module 5
Citation Made Easy – Using Endnote

EndNote X9

Face-to-Face/Zoom class

Module 1
Module 2
Module 3
Module 4
Module 5
Module 6
Module 6
Getting Ready to Share Your Research

Picking the Right Journal to Publish In

Open Access Publishing

CityU Scholars

ORCID stands for Open Researcher and Contributor ID
Studies on the Effectiveness of the Online Library Courses

Topics
- The effectiveness of the courses

Methodology
- Pre-module survey
- Post-module survey
Pre-module Survey

1. How confident are you in the following research/information skills?
   - Searching Skills/Locating Scholarly Resources
   - Finding Thesis/Dissertation
   - Using Subject Specific Databases
   - Using Google Scholars
   - Finding Statistics and Datasets
   - Evaluating Internet Sources
   - Plagiarism and Academic Honesty
   - Using EndNote
   - ORCID
   - CityU Scholars
   - Open Access
   - Getting Your Work Published

2. Do you think you need training on the following research/information skills?

3. Your preferred training method:

4. What roles do you expect the librarians to play in the learning process of this online course?

5. What other role(s) do you expect the librarians to play in the learning process of this online course?
How confident are you **now** in the following research/information skills?

Do you think you need more training on the following research/information skills?

To what extent do you think the following training methods are useful?

What roles do you think the librarians have played in this online course?

How did you feel about the course content/learning experience?

What did you find most useful about this online course?

What would you like to learn more about this online course?
Post-module Survey

1. How confident are you now in the following research/information skills?
2. Do you think you need more training on the following research/information skills?
3. To what extent do you think the following training methods are useful?
4. What roles do you think the librarians have played in this online course?
5. How did you feel about the course content/learning experience?
6. What did you find most useful about this online course?
7. What would you like to learn more about this online course?

5. Select a category below that best describes your agreement with each of the following statements:

- Overall, the online course is user-friendly.
- The topics covered are relevant to my needs.
- The content is easy to understand.
- The activities help to improve my understanding of the course content.
- The course is well structured.
- I would recommend this online course to fellow research students.
Total number of students: 108 students

Pre-module survey: 81 students

Post-module survey: 64 students
Overall, 93% of the students found themselves much more/more confident.
2020/21 Semester A - SM5XXX

5. How did you feel about the course content/learning experience?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Fairly Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Not Applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>The topics covered are relevant to my needs.</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii</td>
<td>The content is easy to understand.</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii</td>
<td>The activities help to improve my understanding of the course content.</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iv</td>
<td>The course is well structured.</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v</td>
<td>Overall, the online course is user-friendly.</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 2019/20 - All Courses

1. How confident are you now in the research/information skills?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Year</th>
<th>No. of Courses</th>
<th>Average of Much More Confident</th>
<th>Average of More Confident</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019/20 (Semester A &amp; B)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>61.92%</td>
<td>32.27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall, **94.19%** of the respondents found themselves **much more confident/more confident**.
5. How did you feel about the course content/learning experience?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Year</th>
<th>No. of Courses</th>
<th>Average of Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Average of Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019/20 (Semester A &amp; B)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>67.01%</td>
<td>31.55%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall, 98.56% of the respondents have **strongly agreed/agreed** with the course content/learning experience.
2019/20 - All Courses

6. What did you find most useful about the course?

“The most useful part is where it shows how to implement advanced search using Boolean and field codes.”

-- Department of Social and Behavioural Sciences (SSSXXX)

“... it even includes some videos for more understanding of the presented concepts.”

-- School of Energy and Environment (SEE6XXX)

“Every module of the course is useful.”

-- Department of Linguistics and Translation (LT8XXX)

“Given a lot of links, we can immediately practice the search method just learned.”

-- Department of Social and Behavioural Sciences (SSSXXX)
Any Improvement so far?

• 6 modules developed from 4 main modules in the 2nd year since its launch

• More useful resources included for researchers, such as Web of Science

• More instructional videos

...
Our Ultimate Goal is …

to offer the **Online Library Course** to all **postgraduates students** so as to enhance their information literacy skills whether “**new normal**” or not.
Thank You!