Empowering our Academic Community through Technology and Information Literacy Competencies

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Abstract: This presentation will describe the approach taken by two campuses of a public university system to increase students’ exposure and competencies in the use of information technologies and resources, provide training and support to faculty in the integration of information technology, and increase available information literacy resources, among others. It will also discuss the challenges faced, as well as future projections.

Introduction

Information literacy is an essential competency that enables students to function as lifelong learners in our information society. It actively involves students in the complex process of recognizing the need for information, identifying relevant information, as well as evaluating, synthesizing, organizing, presenting, and using it effectively to address problems (Macpherson, 2004). However, the majority of undergraduate students need refinement of their information literacy skills (Quarton 2003, Seamans, 2002). To satisfy these needs, the library’s traditional patterns of service delivery, including bibliographic instruction, must migrate from physical to virtual learning environments as faculty and students increasingly use the Web for teaching and research. This migration will also provide unlimited availability of library resources.

This session will discuss the approach and strategies taken to enhance the acquisition of information skills by students, increase the number of faculty members integrating information literacy in the teaching/learning process, and increase the availability of online services and library resources in a digital format. The presenters will describe current support strategies, which include an organized series of workshops, faculty support services, creation of online tutorials on information literacy, and the implementation of a Virtual Reference Service, among others.

References


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