Information Literacy & Relationship Building

Texas STEM 2013 Librarians' Conference

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Began with a user survey of 10 questions

Research & Learning Support – NMSU Library

1. College of Engineering Library Survey

Hello,

I'm Paula Johnson, the engineering librarian, and I'll use this survey to help me learn more about you. I hope to ensure that the NMSU Library and I provide you with the services and resources you most need to do your work. Unless you give your name, this is an anonymous survey. Whether you wish to remain anonymous or not, your feedback is extremely valuable and much appreciated. I will take approximately 10-20 minutes to complete the survey. I really appreciate your taking this time. Thank you!

1. Please select what best describes your affiliation with the College of Engineering:

☐ Undergraduate Student   ☐ Professor Emeritus

☐ Graduate Student   ☐ Department Head

☐ Post-Doc   ☐ Lab Director

☐ Assistant Professor   ☐ Administration

☐ Associate Professor   ☐ Support Staff

☐ Full Professor

Other (please specify)

Part of the pitch was results would be shared

Ranked #1, in order of # votes	Overall # votes received
EI Village (Compendex access)	Google Scholar
Web of Science	Web of Science
IEEE Xplore	IEEE Xplore
Google Scholar	Dissertations & Theses
(tie) DOE Information Bridge & Environmental Engineering Abstracts	EI Village (Compendex access)

Instruction not often desired

Despite a third of the respondents indicating they had used library resources ≤ 12 times/year

and

11% saying they had never used library resources over the prior year

As part of a self-assessment & workload analysis, COE asked for spreadsheets on faculty publications (productivity compared with peers) and multi-year list of dissertations/advisor/committee members

Led to a citation analysis of nine years of dissertations:

Examined 1989-91, 1999-2001 & 2009-2011. This was a total of 108 dissertations, with 7000+ citations.

- books
- journals
- conference papers/proceedings
- government documents
- patents or standards
- theses (MS and PhD)
- websites (when a URL was given)
- other, which included emails, equipment manuals, software, maps and other miscellaneous

Advisors were asked:

What are the expectations you have for the PhD dissertations on which you advise?

How do you and your department communicate these expectations?

Do you guide students toward using particular resources?

Do you evaluate the references used in the dissertation?

How would you characterize the references you find in the PhD dissertations you've reviewed – and how do current compare to those used in the past?

Interviewees asked to answer from own & dept perspective

- Interviews revealed:

  references were reviewed to differing extents

  expectations not always explicit

  all professors either gave students or steered them to articles

Several faculty members described the writing of the dissertation as akin to telling a story, integrating all of one's research into an organized and structured account.

- Literature reviews were seen as being very important,

  but some thought that these weren't always executed as well as wished because the grad student did not critically evaluate the sources being reviewed.

- Many NMSU engineering graduate students are non-native English speakers who come from varied and often quite different types of academic settings.

Writing a Literature Review

Covering the Literature Adequately and Effectively

Paula C Johnson
April 29, 2013

Agenda

- Why conduct a literature review

- What exactly is a literature review?

- Effectively searching for and locating appropriate sources

- Reference management

- Summary

Coffee dates are nice.

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- Thank you.