

UMBC Information Literacy Survey Recommendations

The following recommendations were made during the Information Literacy Brown Bag sessions held to discuss the findings of the UMBC Information Literacy Survey.

Additional recommendations were received from the Library Policy Committee, the Computing Policy Committee, and the Information Technology Steering Committee.

If you would like to make a recommendation to the Information Literacy Task Force, please email them at infolit@listproc.umbc.edu.

- Develop Faculty Workshops (informative and hands on) working with Jack Prostko and the Office of Faculty Development – offer at least two per year.
 - Copyright Law and Fair Use—What faculty and students need to know.
 - *Tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 10th, 10:00 am-12:00 pm – AOK Library*
 - Assignment development to integrate information literacy Standards and prevent academic integrity infractions
 - *Scheduled for Tuesday, April 20th, 1:00 to 3:00 pm*
 - Assisting students in identifying when citing sources is necessary
- Develop resources for faculty so they can integrate information literacy skills into the curriculum on their own.
- Develop additional tools to assist faculty in avoiding environments which promote plagiaristic activities.
- Develop/co-sponsor, with the Office of Faculty Development, an information literacy forum on best practices in the academic disciplines.
- Develop/sponsor an information literacy reading group for faculty and provide practical articles/readings for discussion based on the Standards
- Poll departments on campus to identify which courses are already integrating/teaching information literacy skills. Differentiate between graduate level and undergraduate level courses.
- Work with Faculty Senate to get support for the idea that information literacy needs to be taught.
- Develop information literacy materials (handouts, guides, FAQ's) for students, and work with the Office of Information Technology to include these materials on the UMBC Internet CD.
- Work with academic departments to take information literacy forward from the perspective of the major in upper level courses (i.e., research methods courses).

Recommendations for Future Assessment and Instruction

- Test seniors and graduate students
 - Do we have an exit survey for seniors? Adding a few questions to an existing survey would provide valuable data.
- Do not neglect the graduate students' needs for information literacy instruction.
- Target international students, especially at the graduate level, for information literacy instruction.
- Use high school origin data to target high schools to ask that they develop or enhance their information literacy programs.
- Try survey of faculty to get their assessment of student needs regarding their courses.
- Try doing a survey on the first day of lab classes in the sciences when instructional load is light; such classes are largely handled by TAs. Barrier: survey has to be done on computers, which are often not available in labs in sufficient numbers.

UMBC Initiatives with the potential for partnering with information literacy include:

- ✚ Writing in the Disciplines
- ✚ Technological Fluency Initiative
- ✚ General Education Proposal
- ✚ Academic Integrity Initiative
- ✚ Orientation
- ✚ First Year Seminars
- ✚ Upper Level Methods Courses, esp. in Social Sciences