

Information Literacy Teaching Methods Shared Globally

The research and scholarship of Grand Valley State University librarians continually contributes to the university's reputation for progressive and innovative practice.

In 2015, Grand Valley librarians had 65 scholarly outputs including books, book chapters, journal articles, grants, and presentations.

One such publication, *Teaching Information Literacy: Threshold Concepts* by Grand Valley librarians Hazel McClure, Gayle Schaub, and Patricia Bravender is filled with 34 lesson plans from librarians all over the world. Published in June of 2015, the book works to “help students build an awareness of disciplinary conversations and their conventions, and ideally set the stage for students to more fully understand and contribute to the information landscape around them,” rather than simply explaining library jargon.

Threshold concepts, as described by early scholars in the field Jan Meyer and Ray Land, “can be considered akin to a portal, opening up a new and previously inaccessible way of thinking about something. Threshold concepts represent a transformed way of understanding, or interpreting, or viewing something without which the learner cannot progress.” As a result, these concepts

are useful for a variety of subjects and fit into diverse curriculums.

McClure, Schaub, and Bravender set out to collect and share lesson plans that teach information literacy using threshold concepts. The success of their research and their book lies not only in the growing interest in threshold concepts and information literacy, but also in the adaptability of the lesson plans. Each lesson plan was created with a single instruction session in mind but can be easily adapted for multiple sessions or other courses or fields.

From “Approaching Problems Like a Professional” (Melissa Mallon, Wichita State University), to “Transforming the Failed Search” (Ika Datig, New York University, Abu Dhabi), each lesson plan has a distinct objective, learning goals, as well as guided and independent practice.

Since initial conversations in 2012, McClure, Schaub, and Bravender have presented their research about threshold concepts all over the world, including a 2016 trip to Germany to present for the German Library Congress.

Their book helps promote the reputation for quality work being done by scholars at Grand Valley and contributes to innovative teaching methods in the field of academic librarianship.

For more on Meyer's and Land's threshold concepts research visit
<http://gvsu.edu/s/0hl>