

10-2007

The Information Seeking Behavior of Today's College Students

Doug Way

Grand Valley State University, dway@library.wisc.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/library_presentations

 Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Way, Doug, "The Information Seeking Behavior of Today's College Students" (2007). *Presentations*. 29.
http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/library_presentations/29

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Libraries at ScholarWorks@GVSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Presentations by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@GVSU. For more information, please contact scholarworks@gvsu.edu.

The Information Seeking Behavior of Today's College Students

Doug Way

Grand Valley State University Libraries



Today we're going to look at...

- how today's students look for information how that impacts their work
- the disconnect between this behavior and faculty's expectations and desires
- ways faculty can help influence students' information seeking behavior



Before we begin...

- a word on generalizations



The Millenials

- Relationship to parents
- Trained to be doers and achievers
- Tremendous consumers
- Technology veterans
- Increasingly diverse



A look at what we're seeing...

- Break into buzz groups
 - Briefly talk about what happens when you give students an assignment that requires them to do research.
 - What sources do they use to conduct the research?
 - What's the quality of the sources?



So what does research tell us?

- Most popular source for undergraduate research:

The Internet!!!

- The internet is as popular or even more popular with faculty

Lippincott & Kyrillidou, 2004

De Rosa, 2005



Satisfaction with their Searching

Very satisfied	65%
Satisfied	26%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	7%
Dissatisfied	1%
Very Dissatisfied	2%



De Rosa, 2005

Where are they learning about sources?

Friend	67%
Links from electronic information sources or websites	61%
Teacher/Professor	50%
News Media	44%
Online News	42%
Coworker	37%
Reference from a library website	36%
Librarian	33%

De Rosa, 2005



Impact on Research

- Citing more than ever
 - Convenience
 - “Good enough”

Davis, 2003



A little more complex

- Students believe they can find the information they want on the web.
- Yet they also realize the web doesn't meet all their needs.

De Rosa, 2005



Shouldn't be a Surprise

- Starts early



Faculty, the Web and Student Research

- Love/Hate Relationship
- Perception Gap
- The Missing Filter



What To Do?

- Clear and enforceable guidelines
- Study at Cornell
 - Number of citations decreased
 - Number scholarly resources cited increased



What To Do?

- Introduce new kinds of resources
 - Don't assume
 - Force their hand



What To Do?

- Introduce new kinds of resources
 - Go for a systematic approach
 - At GVSU
 - Natural Resource Management
 - Advertising and Public Relations



What to do?

- What's working with your students?



References

- Carlson, J. (2006). An examination of undergraduate student citation behavior. *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 32(1), 14-22.
- Davis, P. M. (2003). Effect of the web on undergraduate citation behavior: Guiding student scholarship in a networked age. *Portal*, 3(1), 41-51.
- De Rosa, C. (2005). *Perceptions of libraries and information resources: A report to the OCLC membership*. Retrieved July 25, 2006, from <http://www.oclc.org.ezproxy.gvsu.edu:2048/reports/2005perceptions.htm>
- Dewald, N. H. (2005). What do they tell their students? Business faculty acceptance of the web and library databases for student research. *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 31(3), 209-215.
- Gardner, S., & Eng, S. (2005). What students want: Generation Y and the changing function of the academic library. *Portal*, 5(3), 405-420.
- Grimes, D. J., & Boening, C. H. (2001). Worries with the web: A look at student use of web resources. *College & Research Libraries*, 62(1), 11-23.
- Herring, S. D. (2001). Faculty acceptance of the world wide web for student research. *College and Research Libraries*, 62(3), 251-258.
- Holliday, W., & Li, Q. (2004). Understanding the millennials: Updating our knowledge about students. *Reference Services Review*, 32(4), 356-366.
- How academic librarians can influence students' web-based information choices: OCLC white paper on the information habits of college students*. (2002). Retrieved July 24, 2006, from <http://www5.oclc.org/downloads/community/informationhabits.pdf>

- Jones, S. (2002). *The internet goes to college: How students are living in the future with today's technology*. Retrieved August 1, 2006, from <http://www.pewinternet.org/reports/pdfs/PIP%5FCollege%5FReport.pdf>
- Jones, S., & Johnson-Yale, C. (2005). Professors online: The internet's impact on college faculty. *First Monday*, 10(9)
- Lenhart, A., Madden, M. & Hitlin, P. (2005). *Teens and technology: Youth are leading the transition to a fully wired and mobile nation*. Retrieved February 27, 2007, from <http://www.pewinternet.org/PPF/r/162/report%5Fdisplay.asp>
- Lippincott, S., & Kyrillidou, M. (2004). How ARL university communities access information: Highlights from LibQUAL+. *ARL*, (236), 7-8.
- Manuel, K. (2002). Teaching information literacy to generation Y. *Journal of Library Administration*, 36(1/2), 195-217.
- Merritt, S. R., & Neville, S. (2002). Generation Y: A perspective on America's next generation and their impact on higher education. *Serials Librarian*, 42(1-2), 41-50.
- New Media Consortium & EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative. (2006). *The horizon report*. Retrieved August 15, 2006, from <http://educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/CSD4387.pdf>
- Oblinger, D. (2003). Understanding the new students. *Educause Review*, 38, 36-47.
- Robinson, A. M., & Schlegl, K. (2005). Student use of the internet for research projects: A problem? Our problem? What can we do about it? *PS - Political Science and Politics*, 38(2), 311-315.
- Sweeney, R. T. (2005). Reinventing library buildings and services for the millennial generation. *Library Administration and Management*, 19(4), 165-175.

Tomaiuolo, N. G. (2005). Faculty views of open web resource use by college students. *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 31(6), 559-566.

Twait, M. (2005). Undergraduate students' source selection criteria: A qualitative study. *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 31(6), 567-573.

Van Scoyoc, A. M., & Cason, C. (2006). The electronic academic library: Undergraduate research behavior in a library without books. *Portal*, 6(1), 47-58.

Weiler, A. (2005). Information-seeking behavior in generation Y students: Motivation, critical thinking, and learning theory. *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 31(1), 46-53.