

Information Seeking & the LIS Student

Do They Differ from Undergraduates?



Librarians

- Expert Searchers
- Added Value
- Efficiency and Effectiveness
- Resource Knowledge



Image from: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/25031050@No6/3292307605/>

Undergrad Information Behaviors

- Familiar Resources
- Need for Context
- Evaluation is a Challenge
- Convenience



<http://www.jisc.ac.uk/northern-ireland>

Research Methods

- Survey based on Project Information Literacy
- Fall 2012

- 117 responses
- 88.9% female
- 77.8% Bachelor's highest previous degree
- Fairly even distribution of credit hours completed
- Age skewed low; 40.2% between 22 and 25



Findings

Information Behaviors of LIS Students



Source Selection



Most Used*

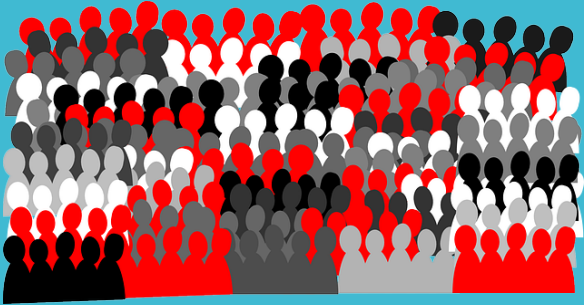
- Research Databases (91.9%)
- Course Readings (89.9%)
- Library Catalogs (73.7%)
- Google/Search Engines (52.0%)
- Wikipedia (22.2%)

Least Used**

- Social Networking Sites (Facebook, etc.) (64.6%)
- Online Forums (43.4%)
- Video Sharing Sites (35.6%)
- Gray Literature (23.2%)

*Percent reporting "always" or "often" used. ** Percent reporting "never" used.

People Consulted



Most Consulted*

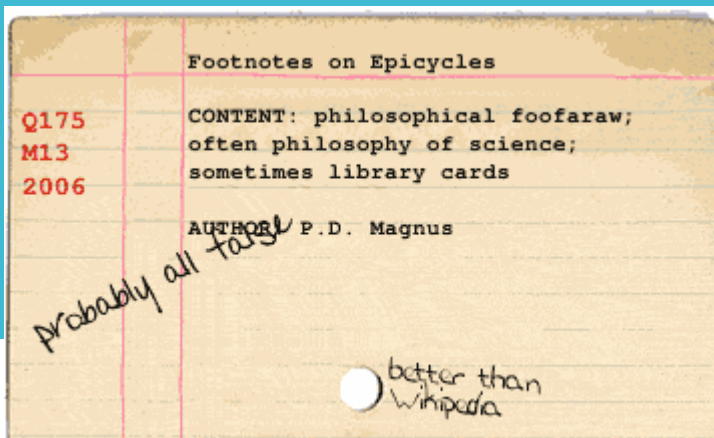
- Instructors (51.5%)
- Classmates (34.3%)
- Librarians (24.2%)

Least Consulted**

- Family and Friends (33.3%)

*Percent reporting "always" or "often" consulted. ** Percent reporting "never" consulted.

Evaluating Information



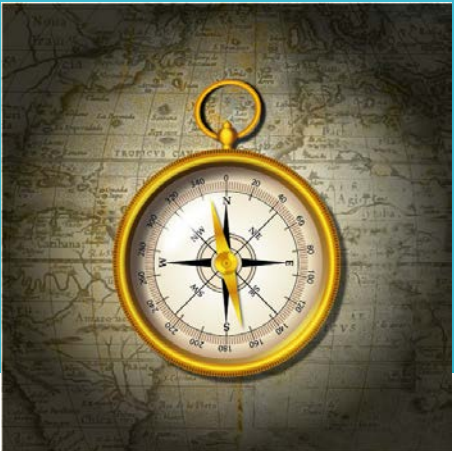
Library Resources

- Currency
- Bibliography/resource list
- Footnotes
- Author's credentials
- Inclusion of differing viewpoints
- Prior knowledge/recommendation

Web Resources

- Currency
- Author's credentials
- Domain name
- Links to outside resources
- Bibliography
- Inclusion of differing viewpoints
- Site design
- Prior knowledge/recommendation

Process



- Getting Started is difficult, but...
- Confident in search skills
- Comfortable with resources
- Confident in ability to evaluate information

Demographic Factors



- Degree level
 - Students with only a Bachelor's find searching more difficult
 - Consult encyclopedias more often
 - Consult instructor's less often
 - More motivated by grades
- No strong correlations with age

Discussion

- LIS students are more confident and comfortable overall
- Experience less difficulty getting started on assignments
- Find it easier to narrow a topic
- Confident in ability to find and evaluate resources
- LIS students:
- Consult librarians somewhat more frequently

Conclusions

- LIS students exhibit at least some advanced IL behaviors
- Lack of correlation with previous degrees or age suggest LIS programs are responsible for increased skill and confidence
- Could do more to build on these behaviors

