

Power Searching in a Web 2.0 World (3 hour workshop)

This session strengthens participant's information fluency skills with hands on game based practice in locating, evaluating, and ethically using digital information. The workshop addresses traditional search skills and how they apply to the folksonomies of Web 2.0 systems. Evaluation and ethical use of Web 2.0 tools will be directly addressed. Since 2004, our face to face and online Power Searching workshops and courses have engaged thousands of librarians, technology coordinators, teachers and administrators in information fluency training. Participants consistently report that they learn many new search and evaluation techniques and, as a result, are better able to find high-quality information they need for instruction and better equipped to pass these skills along to students.

Digital information fluency is a necessary 21st Century skill for all teachers and learners. Our workshop uses an active inquiry approach to prepare educators to understand the essence of NETS•S 2007 Research and Information Fluency Students apply digital tools to gather, evaluate, and use information..

A statement issued by the American Association of School Librarians underscores the importance of teaching students to “access up-to-date information from around the world, to evaluate its relevance to the questions at hand, to assess its authority and reliability, and to apply it to information problem solving.” (American Library Association, 2006). To fail to do so, the report contends, leaves students at risk, “inadequately prepared for the workplace and adult life.”

The proliferation of Web 2.0 applications represents creates a pressing need for the concepts and methods we use to promote information fluency. It is a evolving web world where authorship and an audience are available to anyone with an internet connection. Searchers who practice strategic searching and know the investigative routines need to evaluate information will be able to fine vetted online information and the intellectual products of expert communities.

This workshop will train the trainers, helping classroom teachers, library media and educational technologist master strategies and tactics that enhance personal research skills. We will also provide access to the free information fluency curriculum materials available on our information portal As a result of this session, participants will...

1. Become more efficient Internet and Web 2.0 searchers:

- Knowing when and how to use search engines, subject directories and browsing;
- Building powerful queries with the right keyword and operator strategies;
- Finding the best databases to search for the information they need;
- Searching the Deep Web;
- Analyzing search results for important clues;
- Overcoming common information “dead ends,” such as “page not found

2. Become more effective evaluators in a Web 2.0 context:

- Credibility criteria: Determining authorship, publication, date, accuracy, links to and from, bias, evidence, external support and expert reviews.

3. Practice with tools for teaching these skills to students:

- Instructional tools for searching Web 2.0 applications, evaluating digital information and citing it accurately;
- Interactive tutorial games that provide instruction and feedback in search and evaluation techniques

Outline (time line)

Introductions and Digital Information Fluency process (presentation) (15 minutes)

Searching Efficiently: (1 hour)

- Turning questions into effective queries: The T-ball Challenge*
- Analyzing what went right and wrong in the first search (discussion)
- Search Engine Strategies and Keyword selection: Keyword Challenge games*
- Keyword power: Professional vocabulary, synonyms, hyponyms and hypernyms*
- Keywords and operators Operator Tutorials*
- Choosing appropriate databases for searching*
- Deep Web searching: Copyright Owner Search*, Page not Found Search*
- Recognizing relevance (discussion)
- Finding better keywords: Broadway Challenge*

Evaluating Effectively: (1 hour)

- Credibility criteria: What do you use? (discussion)
- Digital Information Fluency process: Revision Decision and Investigative searching (presentation)
- Analyzing author, publisher, and Links To: truncation, browsing, searching with special operators: MicroModule Companions*
- Special operators: Link:*
- Red Flags?: domain, ~ (unendorsed pages), language (bias)
- Live Evaluation Challenges*

Ethical Use: (45 Minutes)

- Citation / Plagiarism: MicroModule Companions* (followed by discussion)
- Web 2.0 considerations: Copyright, Video and Creative Commons (discussion)