Information Literacy Initiative

- Library Assignment is foundational to information literacy for many students at Flinders University
- Library and information professionals have long advocated a focus on information literacy as a ‘prerequisite for lifelong learning and participative citizenship’
- An information literate person recognises when information is needed and can locate, access, evaluate and apply that information

Alignment with Graduate Qualities

- Conceptualisation of Library Assignment (and other information literacy initiatives) paralleled thinking which introduced GQs at Flinders University
- Library saw the articulation of GQs at Flinders as an opportunity to link its advocacy of information literacy into a wider institutional understanding of how we may prepare students for life beyond university

The Library Assignment enhances Graduate Qualities

Doing the Library Assignment will increase your ability to use current technologies and to create effective learning strategies. Flinders University recognises that this skill development will help characterise our graduates as knowledgeable, able to apply their knowledge and who can work independently, attributes that are very attractive to prospective employers.

Good luck

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We acknowledge the value of discussions with Emeritus Professor Gus Worby, Consultant to Flinders University in developing Graduate Qualities

Poster Design: Veronica Ghee, Humanities Liaison Librarian

What is the Library Assignment?
- Self-paced interactive quiz available as a ‘topic’ on the university’s Learning Management System (LMS) for all enrolled students
- Introduces the library and key information management skills
- Assessed by a number of first year topics and completed by more than 2,500 students each year
- New in 2009 is the explicit alignment with the Graduate Qualities (GQs) in Flinders University’s Bachelor degree programs

Enhancing Graduate Qualities

- Supports the development of three of the seven GQs identified by Flinders University
- We hope that the considered completion of the Library Assignment, rather than just compliance to a set task can build skills that will help characterize our students as:
  - Knowledgeable
  - Able to apply knowledge
  - Able to work independently

Future Development

- Design multiple ‘library assignments’ to suit different disciplines, cultures and faculty understandings of GQs
- Develop additional interactive tutorials which integrate closely with coursework and capstone topics
- Create practice to align all information literacy initiatives with GQs

Questions

- Creative ways to liaise with faculty to embed the Library Assignment into all first year courses?
- Other educational technologies that can engage students with graduate qualities?

Variation in Practice

- Barrie’s research on faculty categories of understanding of graduate attributes helpful
- Variable uptake and mixed reaction to the Library Assignment among some faculty and students
- Does lay a foundation upon which more extensive discipline-focused information literacy initiatives may be developed