

Information Literacy in Ireland

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Government Strategy

IL implicit rather than explicit in key policy documents

“our ability to think, and to select and use the information at our disposal will be the critical determinant of future success of the Information Society in Ireland”

(Information Society Commission, 3rd Report, 2000)

CONUL and Information Literacy

CONUL Working Group on IST (2002)

– Terms of Reference:

- To investigate best practice in information skills training internationally
- To investigate current IST practice in CONUL and other relevant libraries
- To investigate the integration of IST into institutional t&l programmes, with regard to t&l developments
- To suggest areas of development opportunity, and to suggest promotional material and guidelines for IST in CONUL Libraries

Report: Methodology

Literature Review

Institutional Reports based on an informal survey (23 questions)

- Policies & Strategies
- Nature & extent of IST provision
- Current challenges & issues

Key Findings

All CONUL libraries heavily engaged in delivery of IST

Examples of :

- Course embedded IST
- University commitment to IL as key transferable skill
- Use of institutional VLEs for IST delivery
- Local co-ordination of IST content
- Library involvement in projects and initiatives involving other key campus stakeholders

Key Findings

Challenges identified:

- Need for appropriate and targeted training for all staff engaged in IST
- Need to review existing resource provision for IST
- Need to co-ordinate local activities, ensuring an agreed understanding of objectives and a common standard of provision
- Need for advocacy and awareness raising amongst the university community
- Evaluation and measurement of the impact of IST activities
- Need to support the growing demand for IST outside of library core hours

CONUL Advisory Committee on IL

- CONUL Policy on Information Literacy
- Frameworks/Models/Standards
- Advise on appropriate staff training
- CONUL IL Seminar

Information Literacy and DCU

Young university (25 years old today!)

Postgraduates 2410

Undergraduates 5547

(Oscail: National Distance Education Centre)

4 Faculties (14 schools)

Business

Humanities & Social Sciences

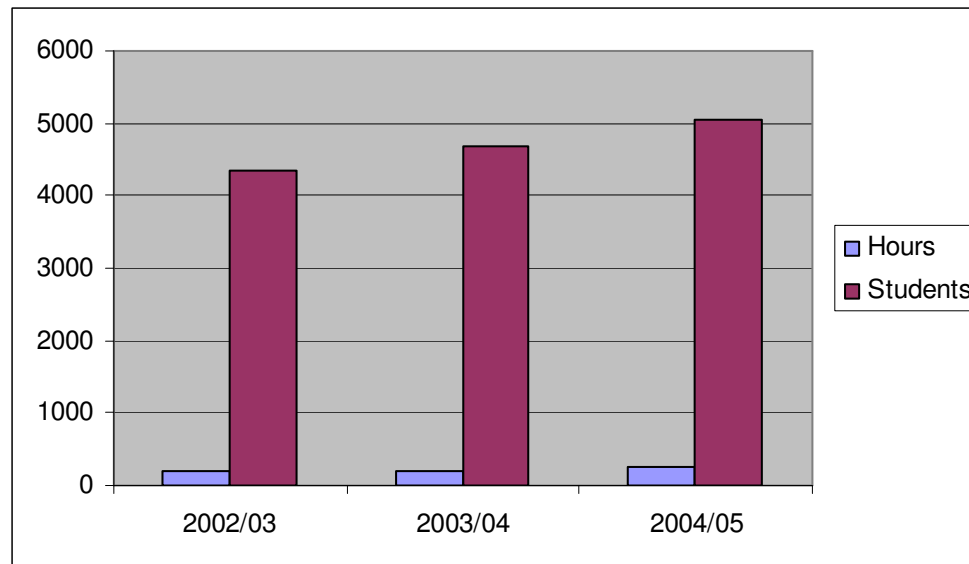
Engineering & Computing

Science & Health

Subject Librarian Team



Information Literacy Statistics



Milestones

- 1997 awarded first ever President's award for teaching & learning (nominated in 2004)
- 2000 New Library/dedicated facilities
- 2001 New subject team
- 2002 Intensive 3 day training programme
 - Curriculum design cycle
 - Writing learning outcomes
 - Learning and teaching methodologies
 - Designing pilot initiatives
 - Using ICT to support learning
 - Assessment and evaluation

Milestones

- 2003 Information Literacy 3 Level Framework
 - Facilitate the incorporation of IL objectives/outcomes into teaching programmes
 - Objectives/outcomes can be selected and adapted as appropriate to meet requirements of individual modules
- 2004 Teaching and Learning Seminar on Information Literacy
- 2005 University's Learning Innovation Strategy

Successful Collaborations

School of Communications

Opportunities in all UG programmes identified to develop and practice IL skills

- Year 1 Module “Information and Study Skills”

Learning outcomes identified:

“Students will develop a structured and methodical approach to the use of the internet for research purposes”

“ Students will become familiar with all relevant library resources”

Assessment: Moodle quiz

Successful Collaborations

Business School

First year module: “Group and social behaviour”

(DCUBS/Careers Service/Student Affairs/Library)

Module aim: “provide students with an understanding of the skills and abilities at both an individual and group level that they will need in order to operate successfully during their time in university and in their future careers...enable students to understand the range of information resources that will assist them during both their time at university and as lifelong learners”

Successful Collaborations

School of Nursing

Module: Information Management

- Module aim includes...

“to enable students to effectively use the internet to locate and retrieve quality nursing information”

Assignment/Assessment:

- Presentation - students are required to research a treatment on the internet and present findings, evaluation etc
- Essay e.g. “Should patients and family members use the internet to learn about specific illnesses” identify 2 websites: one to recommend to family and one you would not, indicate why you chose the sites

Related Activities

- **Annual Orientation programme: Semester 1**
- **Annual Refresher sessions: Semester 2**
- **One to one sessions**
- **Annual programme for university staff**
- **Research workshops**
- **Careers Office/Local Community**

Success Factors

- **Clear Library policy, strategy and framework**
- **Subject Team**
 - **Strong commitment, enthusiasm and goodwill**
 - **Excellent relationships built up over the years with academic teaching staff**
 - **Membership of programme boards**
- **Good relationship with OVPLI**
- **Dedicated Facilities**

Challenges

- **Low turn out to some sessions/ student motivation**
e.g. Business stats:
 - **40% turnout to sessions for large undergrad classes**
 - **Compared to 78% turnout for “embedded” module**
 - **64% turnout rate for postgrads**
- **Large class sizes**
 - **Mode of Delivery/Logistics**

Challenges

- **Meeting the needs of part-time students / increasing demand for sessions outside of library core hours**
- **Development of online support tools**
- **Meeting the demand!**
- **Ongoing training and professional development needs of “teaching” staff**

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