

KnowHow! Creating Online Information Literacy Instructional Modules  
**Interim Report: July 1, 2009**  
The Media Center: UMass Lowell Libraries  
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**Project Abstract: From Grant Application**

This project will create informational and instructional modules in a variety of formats to better support the integration of library resources into the teaching and learning activities of the institution and to improve faculty and students' information literacy skills. Instructional modules will provide detailed information and support for basic library research and information literacy skills including search strategies, specific database searches and retrieval techniques to improve online searching effectiveness.

In May 2009 we asked for and received an extension until the end of summer '09 to fulfill the grant requirements. At the end of the spring ('09) semester we hired a Sound Recording Technology student to work with us to create the deliverables.

Deliverables promised

I. 4-6 short (30 and 60 second) radio public service announcements on the broad issues of information literacy and libraries in order to capture student/faculty interest. These will be offered to campus broadcasting outlets

**TO DATE:** We have created eight PSA. Two are broad conceptual PSAs that present interesting facts to pique student and faculty interest. Six incorporate interview clips with various faculty members and librarians on topics related to research and information literacy.

II. 4 - 6 in depth video instructional modules will be created and linked closely to specific databases and/or topics (PsychInfo, Refworks, search strategies, remote access. Boolean searching, framing research questions, etc.).

Prototypes: <http://library.uml.edu/media/remote%20login/remote%20login.html>

See also <http://library.uml.edu/media/sciencedirect/sciencedirect.html>

**TO DATE:** We have continued to move forward interviewing librarians on their views of information literacy with an eye towards incorporating these clips with the faculty clips that already exist. Some of these have made their way into the online/radio PSAs as well. Our goal by the end of the summer is to have at least four new modules online. One will be an exemplar search with screen capture and interviews of librarians interspersed. In essence this would be a model of a "model search" for first or second year students. Included will be short targeted instruction on topics such as Boolean searching, how to read a citation, etc.

3) This project will also build upon a previous pilot website that will serve as a central repository and organized under a common brand and identity - Know How! See undated [prototype: <http://library.uml.edu/knowhow>

**TO DATE:** We have been moving forward on this front as well. We have updated the outdated original pilot site with new links, new images and more

video clips. We have incorporated links to a small handful of modules currently being created by other librarians on campus. We will continue to work towards developing a consistent level of production standards with the other librarians whenever possible,

The goal is to help students on the Lowell campus to better understand the world of information, to make the best use of the library's resources, hone their research skills, raise their level of understanding with regards to the kinds of information now available, and how to find the most relevant information to fulfill their academic requirements.

This content will be organized and accessible through the UML Knowhow website. We envision this site will serve as an "information literacy portal" for students to access instruction, as well as faculty and librarian insight on important issues related to information literacy. In addition this site will house class assignments that are related to information literacy, as well as non-specific generic information literacy assignments for faculty to integrate and use in their courses, if they so choose. The end product for this grant will be online instructional videos in a variety of formats in order to reach as wide an audience as possible.

We have received an extension through the end of summer, 2009. We have hired a student who is working 20-30 hours per week. I believe all of the above goals are achievable by then end of the summer.