

**Request for Proposals for Innovations in Uses of Technology in Instruction  
2007 – 2008**

**Title of Project**

Information Literacy Online

**Introduction**

There is a need for undergraduate students at UF to develop proficiencies in locating, evaluating, and using information effectively and ethically, in order to increase academic success and retention. While there is no way to comprehensively reach all incoming students, the Smathers Libraries system reaches a large proportion through a partnership with the University Writing Program (UWP). All students enrolled in ENC1101: *Introduction to College Writing & ENC1102: Introduction to Argument and Persuasion* are taught research and information literacy skills in one hands-on class session at the library. This short session introduces many new skills and concepts that can be confusing for students.

The UWP and the Libraries recognize that the current method of working with students is inadequate, and the UWP has agreed to partner with the Libraries on this grant proposal. The UWP is committed to exploring alternative formats and methods of providing research and information literacy training for their students, to improve the quality and depth of the training. The Libraries are committed to providing the UWP coordinators and instructors more library instruction tools to incorporate into their curriculum and to encourage collaboration in teaching. Other UF groups that have committed to using the tutorials are Faculty Development, The Department of Continuing Education in distance learning courses and the Dean of Students Office in the freshman first year experience programs.

**Project Goals**

Create a core suite of five complementary online tutorials (modules) to guide students through the research skills and concepts necessary to complete first and second year term papers and assignments. These tutorials will be based upon existing lesson plans already being used in face-to-face training.

Develop accompanying assessment tools that will allow students, instructors, and librarians to measure student improvement in research skills.

Develop curriculum guides for use by University Writing Program instructors, to assist them in administering the tutorials and in assessing student success.

### Improvements to learning

Every year, approximately 4,000 ENC1101: *Introduction to College Writing* and ENC1102: *Introduction to Argument and Persuasion* students attend a fifty-minute library research skill workshop. Currently all hands-on sessions are taught by a team of 15 different library instructors. Each instructor emphasizes different skills and tools, thus, all students do not receive the same quality instruction session. The online tutorials will help ensure all students master the same skills and receive the consistent information during instruction.

One fifty-minute session with students is also not an adequate amount of time to teach students essential research skills. Providing training online will enable UWP instructors to assign modules at appropriate times, and scaffold presentation of concepts for improved learning.

In addition, the tutorials will serve as a reference for students who need to refresh their skills.

Librarians hope to market the tutorials to other instructors and programs, in the hopes of reaching more students. The tutorials will be linked in Facebook and WebCT as well.

The Libraries and the UWP hope to increase student academic success and thereby retention at UF, by raising levels of information literacy and research skills in this population.

### Innovation

Incoming students do not have the basic information literacy concepts so they can effectively research and evaluate information so as to succeed in writing and other courses. Putting the tutorials online will enable students to easily access the content during formal classes, to remediate as needed, as well as make the content available to any UF instructor who wishes to assign the modules to students who need to master research skills.

### Student audience reached

Though the tutorials will be designed around the research needs of students enrolled in *ENC1101* and *ENC1102*, the tutorials will be useful for all incoming freshmen in all colleges. They will also be helpful for transfer students and new graduate students who need a refresher on research skills or are not familiar with the library resources available at UF. The tutorials will also be available to the general public, ensuring anyone can use them as needed.

### Portability

The tutorials will be helpful for all students regardless of their major. The DOCE is also committed to promoting the tutorials to distance learning students.

#### Potential for reducing costs

The tutorials will move a majority of ENC 1101 & ENC1102 library instruction sessions to the online environment, extending the instruction to more students while reducing the need for library instructors. Librarians can reallocate teaching time to more advanced concepts.

#### Assessment

The tutorials will contain multiple assessment tools to assess comprehension. Students will be able to receive immediate feedback, and share scores with instructors. Instructors will be able to monitor the performance of class sections or other aggregates. Librarians will be able to look at scores to evaluate and improve the training.

#### Sustainability

The online tutorials will serve one component of the overall instruction program of the UF Libraries. They will serve as the base of the program, instructing all new students in basic research skills, and reviewed for revisions yearly by the Library Instruction Committee. Librarians will continue to develop more advanced modules in conjunction with academic departments.