Information Seeking Strategies

Accessing Quality resources @ MLMC

One of our goals for this year was to ensure that our students have access to quality resources to assist with their academic endeavours. There is clear evidence that links student outcomes and engagement to the use of high quality educational resources - online, print, eBooks and videos.

Many colleges and universities are now using Libguides to assist students in gaining access to carefully selected information in the same way that print materials are also carefully selected for quality, relevance, authenticity, inclusive content and purpose.

Libguides is a joint project here at the College with recommendations for online content from teacher librarians, teachers, students and other educational institutions and organisations but rarely sourced from just a “google” search.

We are aware that students must learn how to be discerning when selecting websites and gathering information so teacher-librarians and teachers continue to provide support and instruction in information skills.

We now have the ability to locate, access and publish information using text, audio, and video, or any combination of these. There is unprecedented access to technologies and online tools which are instantly available. We are aware that the process of accessing, critically evaluating and appropriately using information is fundamental to a student’s success in a 21st Century information-based world. Therefore the College Libraries continue to empower our students to meet these challenges through teaching information skills while also connecting our learners to high quality resources including not just web content, but eBooks, eJournals, print materials, educational videos and online services. We must model for students what quality information is, looks like and delivers.

While the College Community and Library Staff work cooperatively to facilitate students’ research skills, and assist in meaningful creation of knowledge, library programs are also regularly evaluated and updated to ensure that the teacher librarians offer leadership, and support of curriculum initiatives to meet the learning needs of our students. While we focus on the digital revolution and the impact on learning and teaching we know that it is vital that we continue to enhance reading capabilities. Therefore we encourage staff and students to use a range of sources including print materials which are still regularly updated where relevant. We are also available to offer support in learning and teaching with these resources as well.

It is worth noting that on anecdotal level students are more engaged when working with quality resources whether they are online or physical. There is less time wasted in endless “googling” and then finding information is not appropriate or useful, there is less frustration or distraction as students engage with quality information meeting their research needs and there is satisfaction for students in knowing they are on track.

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