



# ACTIVE LEARNING STRATEGIES TO TEACH NEWS LITERACY

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## Introduction

Applying the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education to the 'fake news' phenomenon provides instructors and librarians opportunities to increase students' understanding of information sources, provides all students a voice in the current debate on authority, and increases students' ability to evaluate and ethically use information for academic and personal gains.

The Framework consists of six concepts which were adopted by ACRL in 2016:

- Authority is Constructed and Contextual
- Information Creation as a Process
- Information Has Value
- Research as Inquiry
- Scholarship as Conversation
- Searching as Strategic Exploration

Since the creation of the Framework, librarians and educators have been increasing their efforts to apply active learning strategies across multiple disciplines to increase the information and digital literacy skills of college students. Three personal examples which focus on news literacy which will be shared include:

Allowing students in English Composition (ENC1101) to evaluate the authority of a source by providing guided practice using Guide-on-the-Side tutorial software to create a customized student experience requiring students to apply the RADAR technique for evaluation of a news source.

The exploration of how information is generated and for what purpose utilizing portions (slides, videos, and discussion questions) of the open source curriculum created at the Center for News Literacy at Stony Brook University to encourage American Government (POS1041) students to visualize the different "information neighborhoods" that they may find themselves in and when to be cautious.

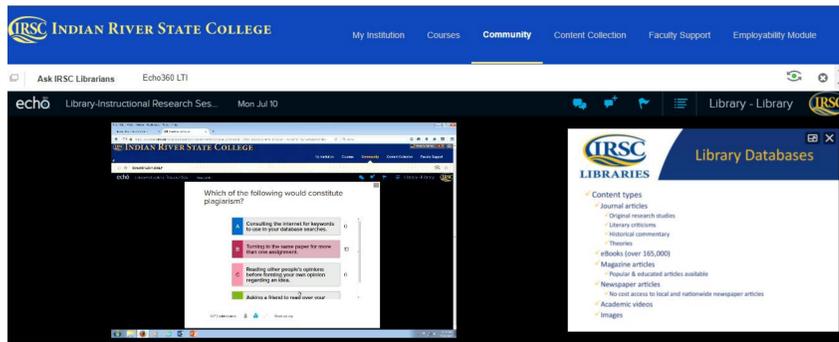
Utilizing the ECHO Active Learning Platform (ALP) to walk Biology Junior Seminar (BSC3931) students through the information cycle and use the live polling features of the ALP to reinforce application of how scholarship is generated in the biological sciences. Examples of how Zika is reported in the news versus the scholarly literature provides the news literacy tie-in.

Information literacy skill building is a component of the General Education Learning Outcomes at IRSC, as well as at many others. While the Association of American Colleges & Universities provides detailed rubrics for what being information literate looks like, the knowledge practices from the Framework hints at what the learning process looks like with enough flexibility to build content that is institution and course-specific. It is impossible to cover all frames in a single lesson, course, or semester, but by allowing students an opportunity to explore these concepts across their course load, they can apply the ideas and engage with them in meaningful ways.

### References

Association of American Colleges & Universities. (2013). Information literacy value rubric. Retrieved from <https://www.aacu.org/value/rubrics/information-literacy>

## Echo Active Learning Platform (ALP)



Echo ALP Platform

The Echo360 Active Learning Platform is a lecture capture solution that allows for the live or on demand recording of instructors' audio and video during a lesson and provides an interactive learning environment where students can interact with course content, peers, and instructors. Students can view the instructor's PowerPoint presentation, participate in activity slides or polling questions, take notes, ask questions, bookmark slides for later review, and build a study guide. There are currently over 100 classrooms across four campuses that are equipped to use Echo360, including the library computer labs at the Main and Pruitt Campuses. A librarian schedules recordings with the eLearning team when an instructional research session is scheduled with a librarian in a library computer lab. The eLearning team member sets up the recording, which can be accessed through the library's Blackboard Organization or as a link that a course instructor can install in their Blackboard classroom. The librarian adds presentation slides and activities prior to the session. When students come to the library, they log into the Blackboard Ask IRSC Librarians organization and find the link to their class session.

Which stage(s) of the information cycle are we currently in for information about Zika?	
A. Day of (television, internet, radio)	4
B. Weeks of (newspapers)	3
C. Weeks after (magazines)	3
D. Months after (journal articles)	7
E. Year after (books)	0
F. Years after (reference handbooks, encyclopedias)	0

check for understanding →

Polling Question

The librarian uses the immediate feedback from polling answers to check for understanding of lesson topics and adjust the lesson for that day. She is also able to make changes to the lesson structure for future classes. She uses the information provided from the students about their research project to conduct follow-up inquiries with students who had questions or who needed further assistance.

## Embedded Blackboard Modules

Librarian Kendra Auberry designed a news literacy module as her final project in the online teaching and learning class she took at the University of Central Florida in spring 2017. She showed this module to a few instructors at Indian River State College to see if anyone would be interested in piloting the module. Three instructors agreed to test the module in fall 2017. Three sections of English Composition (ENC1101), two sections of American Government (POS1041) and one section of World History (WOH2040) currently have the graded module embedded in their courses. Kendra interacts with students and grades work in this module. Students are asked to watch videos, engage in tutorials created with Guide-on-the-Side, read short amounts of text, participate in a discussion board, and analyze a news story of their own finding along with creating a fake news headline related to that same topic. Feedback has been positive from students and instructors. Kendra has seen an increase in student questions this semester and the ability to spend face-to-face time focused on hands-on activities rather than point and click instruction. It remains to be seen if any improvement in the quality of the course final research projects can be attributed to interaction with the module.

**NEWS EVALUATION TUTORIAL**

Introduction

Let's evaluate this article using RADAR to determine its reliability as a news source worthy of your attention.

**Evaluate sources with RADAR**

- Authority
- Date

**8 Reasons You Should Never Ord Salmon**

We've all been told that salmon, packed with heart-healthy omega flattening protein, is a great way to get strong, lean and healthy. T better sit down before you read the next sentence.

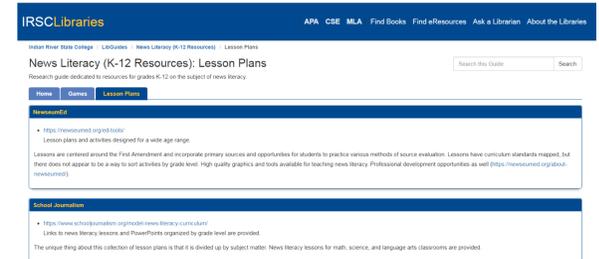
**Guide-on-the-Side**

News Literacy Module Outline

## Future Considerations

### Game for Middle School Students

The process of explaining the difference between legitimate news stories and made up ones by creating fake news versions themselves has produced a large amount of creative material that could be used to help younger audiences become discerning news consumers. A game using the headlines created by the students from the Blackboard News Literacy module is in the works geared towards middle school age children. Two Port St. Lucie middle school classrooms are willing to test the game upon completion. The project is still in the research phase, with a LibGuide serving as a place to curate the best resources already in existence in order to avoid duplication of effort and create something unique.



LibGuide Resource for K-12 Educators & Parents

### Service Learning Project

There is interest with faculty who are a part of the Service Learning Professional Learning Community to incorporate news literacy as a topic with service learning projects that students complete as part of courses in a variety of disciplines, offering options for students to evaluate and curate content on class topics. Also in the works are plans to have college students teach evaluation techniques to younger students in some type of college-sponsored venue.

## Literature Review

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