



Something besides homework:

Reframing research support for graduate students in social work

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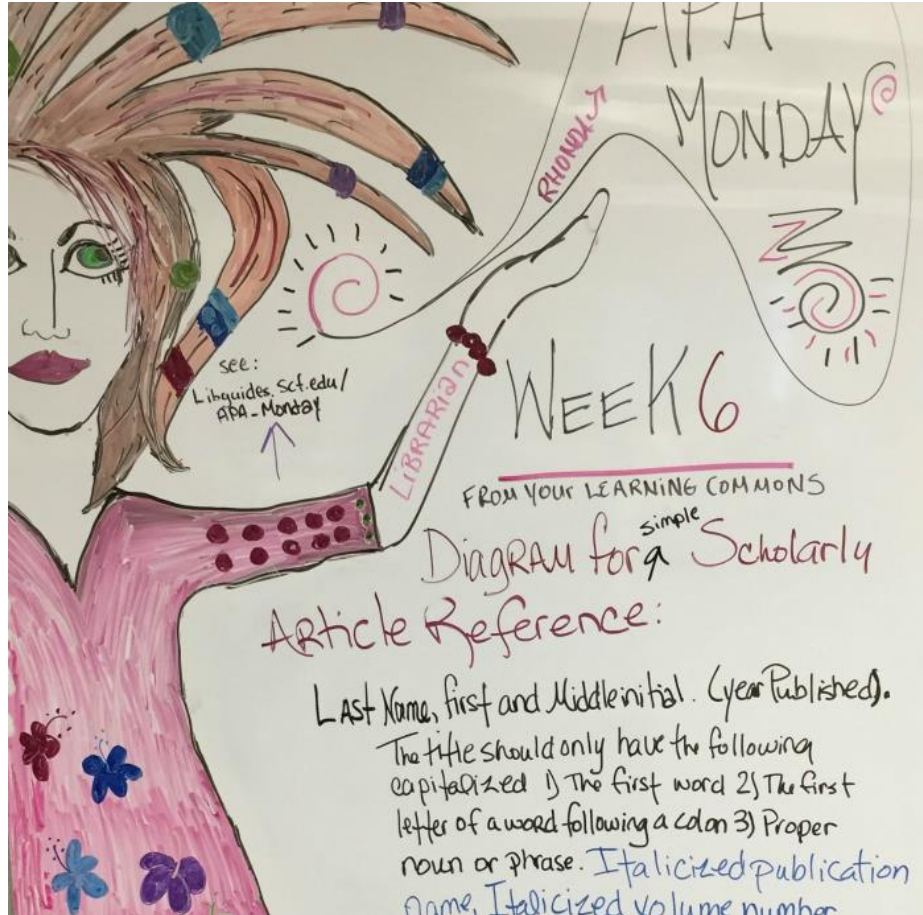
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Opportunities & challenges

Social work is a community of practice predisposed to engage in evidence-based scholarly conversation and support open access. And yet there is resistance.



Reframing our practice

To lower these barriers, we need to move beyond “point and click” information literacy instruction and rethink our teaching *praxis*.



Information has value

“Information possesses several dimensions of value, including as a commodity, as a means of education, as a means to influence, and as a means of negotiating and understanding the world. Legal and socio-economic interests influence information production and dissemination.”

~ ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education.



Evidence-based practice

"(EBM) is the integration of best research evidence with clinical expertise and patient values" (Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine, 2004). Social work scholars have added that practitioners are required to seek and consider multidimensional sources of knowledge including (1) quantitative and qualitative studies, (2) consumer wisdom, and (3) professional wisdom.



Open Social Work
Scholarship@McGill

Depositing Independent Study
Projects in eScholarship@McGill,
McGill's Institutional Repository



Scholarship as conversation

Research in scholarly and professional fields is a discursive practice in which ideas are formulated, debated, and weighed against one another over extended periods of time. Instead of seeking discrete answers to complex problems, experts understand that a given issue may be characterized by several competing perspectives as part of an ongoing conversation in which information users and creators come together and negotiate meaning.

~ ACRL Framework for Information Literacy
for Higher Education



Resistance

Graduate students in professional programs [don't see] research as applicable to practice thus resist drawing on research in application papers. Students invariably go for the minimum number of references and use them in the most general manner possible."

~ Prof. Sarah Todd, School of Social Work, Carleton University



Essence of a lit review

Knowledge disposition & practices: Identifying & citing scholarly contributions and critically evaluating contributions to and changes in the scholarly conversation over time.



On-going conversation

And that's the truth.

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