

Play your cards right!

The role of meaningful play in teaching information literacy to first-year students

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Verbal Presentation

3 points

You need 5 sources of up-to-date information.



Term Paper

10 points

10 sources of information are required.

No more than one of the following can be used: website, blog, dictionary, Encyclopedia, or newspaper allowed.



Serious Report

15 points

You need 8 sources of information.



Research problem

To explore how meaningful play can inform information literacy teaching.

Undergraduate students believe they're experts at finding sources for assignments but often choose the wrong sources.

Detailed instructions may not engage students in matching their information needs with appropriate sources.

Research question

Can a game be developed that will encourage first-year undergraduates to engage with and use the scholarly literature in their field for assignments?

Sources

Purpose

To engage students in the process of choosing the right sources for different academic assignments i.e., to change information seeking behaviour in a fun way.

Why?

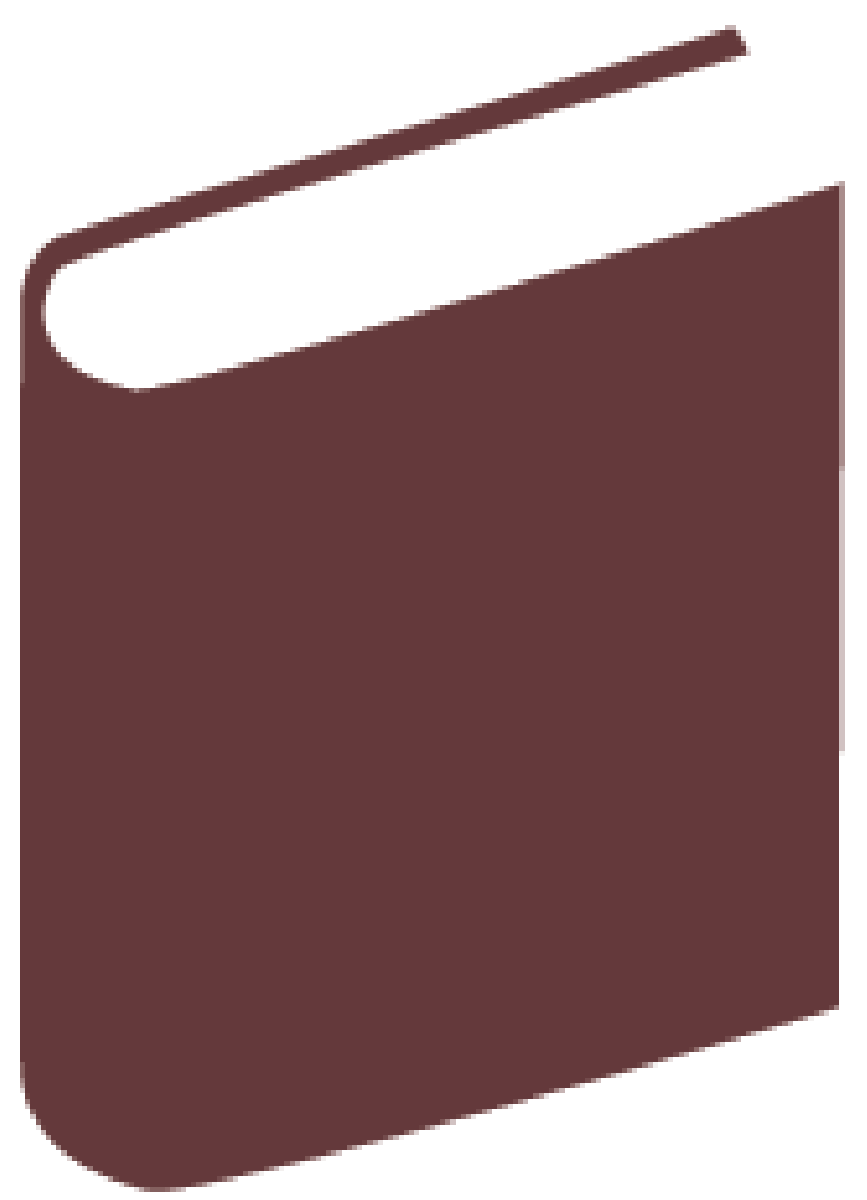
- Meaningful play allows players to:
- connect actions with outcomes
 - understand the relationship between actions and outcomes
 - integrate this understanding into game play

This play can be used to teach students that:

“Information in any format is produced to convey a message and is shared via a selected delivery method. The iterative processes of researching, creating, revising, and disseminating information vary, and the resulting product reflects these differences.”

~ ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education

Book



There are different types of books, so be careful of their quality.

Academic Journal



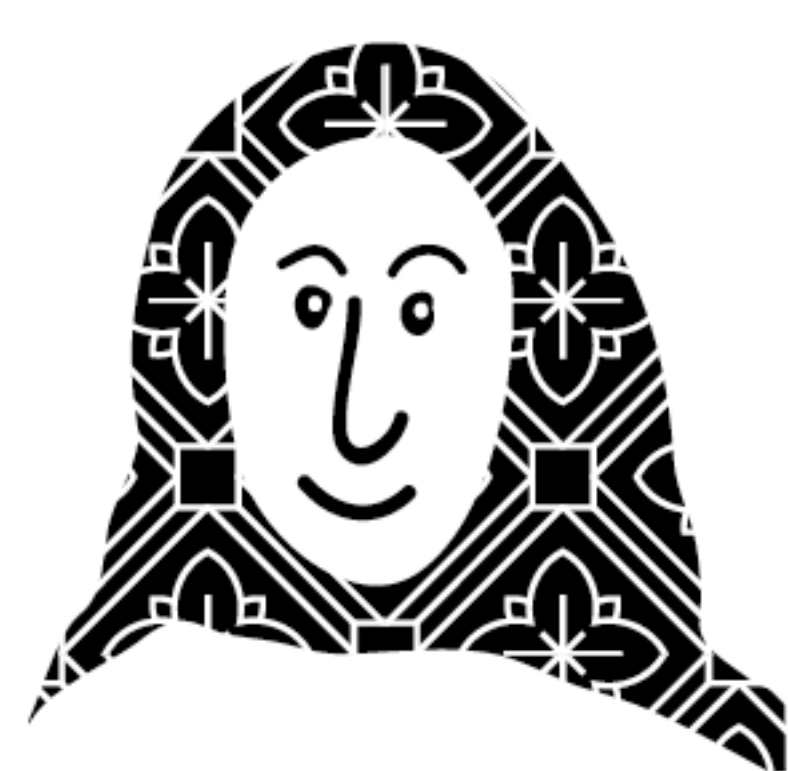
Articles in an academic journal are often peer reviewed

Results

Have used this game for IL teaching in classes for both university and college first-year students.

- The game conveys the right information about source material:
 - Different information in different formats is needed for different assignments.
 - Reading assignment instructions and understanding types of sources is important to academic success.
- Students want a more complex game, i.e., it could be more meaningful.

Subject Specialist



You discuss referencing and citing your sources with your subject specialist.

Plagiarism



The Academic Integrity Policy governs the academic behaviour of students.

Redesigns

Phase I

- The original game took too long to play.

We kept the fundamental rules—the game mechanics worked but:

- We eliminated discarding
- We introduced reuse of cards
- We reduced the draw deck from 139 to 60
- Created a short video to explain how to play the game

Phase II

- Introduce card trading
- Add a penalty of negative points for incomplete assignments.

Acknowledgements

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