

CREATING KNOWLEDGE
010423

Workshop

Christine Bruce: Creating Learning Opportunities; using the relational model of Information Literacy

To help the workshop to get started Christine Bruce had prepared four topics to be discussed in groups:

1. Create an assessment / learning task in a subject area of your choice that draws on one or more of the seven faces of information literacy. Include an element of the task which require students to reflect on what they have learned about information literacy.
2. What questions arise for you out of the discussions we have had to date? What problems of practise are you seeking to address that may be influenced by our discussions about information literacy and student learning? How can these problems of practise be addressed?
3. What can librarians and other educators do to foster the full range of learning outcomes assigned by the relational model?
4. Identify some aspect of our discussion today that you would like to consider further or apply to practice. Discuss your ideas with the group.

It was not easy at first to get the participants to team up into different groups; with some assistance of Christine Bruce, however, they were soon engaged in lively discussions. The main problems that the groups addressed were the difficulty in integrating information literacy in the education and how to show the students and the teaching community the importance of information literacy.

After half an hour the participants returned to relate what they had discussed and what conclusions they had reached. Different approaches to the problems were proposed: Get close to the teachers to find out what is going on. Find out what people are already doing, what is working and what is not. Try to show the teachers something new, for example by the use of a web site. Invite yourself to lectures and seminars to find out what is going on and offer your services to students and staff.

As to the problem of integrating information literacy in the education Christine Bruce emphasised the importance of integrating library curriculum with academic curriculum.

Bruce also described her own methods to increase the students reflection by asking them to keep journals of information related work, reflect on what has been useful and what has not, and finally to reflect broadly on learning and what they have learned about information literacy. Finally Christine Bruce talked about the need for an institute for information literacy.

Despite a slow start this turned out to be a very interesting and inspiring workshop.