Information Literacy in McNair Scholars Programs

MARGARET SHULL, JD
KARI AZEVEDO, PHD
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL MISSOURI
AT THE MCNAIR PROMISING PRACTICES INSTITUTE, ORLANDO, FL, FEBRUARY 1, 2019
Definition of Information Literacy

**Information literacy**: “The ability to know when there is a need for information, to be able to identify, locate, evaluate, and effectively and responsibly use and share that information for the problem at hand.”

(Association of American Colleges & Universities, 2009, adopted from the National Forum on Information Literacy)
Research Question

In what ways do McNair programs address information literacy as part of research and scholarly activities and preparation for doctoral study?
Methodology

Online survey distributed by email to McNair listserv requesting participation
Follow-up emails to individual directors
59 responses out of 151 funded programs (39%)
Conducted during fifth year of 2012-2017 grant cycle
### Survey Results

Number of years each participating institution has hosted a McNair Scholars Program:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 5 years</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 to 10 years</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>25.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 to 15 years</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>22.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 or more years</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>49.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>100.0</td>
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“Does Your Program Provide Instruction Addressing Information Literacy?”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>78.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No response</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>59</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
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“Who Provides Instruction Addressing Information Literacy in Your Program?”

Similar among most programs:

- Librarians—referred to in various ways, e.g., reference, subject, faculty, research, mentor, liaison (31 programs)
- McNair staff (20)
- McNair faculty/faculty mentors (24)
- Research instructors (5)
“Who Provides Instruction Addressing Information Literacy in Your Program?”

Unique among programs:
- Graduate student mentors
- McNair graduate assistant
- Writing specialist
- Summer instructors
- Writing Center staff
- Quantitative resource center
- Dean of the Graduate School

MARGARET SHULL AND KARI AZEVEDO, MCNAIR PROMISING PRACTICES INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, ORLANDO, FL, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2019
“Does Your Program Have Assignments or Activities That Address Information Literacy?”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>72.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown/No Response</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>100.0</td>
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</table>
Assignments or Activities That Address Information Literacy: With Librarians

- Practice on searching and citing literature
- Assist in finding topic and using discipline-appropriate sources
- Finding scholarly articles and summarizing
- Individual meetings on the research project, e.g., with discipline-specific research librarian — specific citation styles, academic search engines
- Developing bibliography with reference librarian
- Student has individual reference librarian who helps with fine-tuning project materials
- Workshops on library skills, e.g., to create spreadsheet of sources preliminary to literature review
Assignments or Activities That Address Information Literacy: Other

- Review a scholarly resource and identify key pieces of information
- Find articles and summarize
- Develop 5-10 citations
- Annotated bibliography
- Literature review
- Research proposal
- Create a research timeline
- Submit drafts throughout summer
Assignments or Activities That Address Information Literacy: **Other**

**Resources:**
- *The Craft of Research* (Booth, Colomb, and Williams)
- *They Say / I Say* (Graff and Birkenstein)
- Research planning guide
- Bibliography/reference software

**Unique activities/assignments:**
- Journal groups
- Information literacy modules
“Does Your Program Hold Group Meetings That Address Information Literacy?”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes, provided by library personnel</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>62.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, provided by non-library personnel</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No response</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>100.0</td>
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Group Meetings That Address Information Literacy: With Librarians

- Literacy orientation/overview workshop
- Using library resources
- Navigating library website, databases, how to use reference software
- Using search engines, navigating online indices and resources specific to discipline
- Research seminar: scholarly research and writing
- Researching the literature: how to review it, judging, reading effectively, and efficiently, summarizing
Group Meetings That Address Information Literacy: With Librarians

- Use of library catalogue and Zotero
- Seminar during summer internship
- How to research and refine literature within the scholars’ various disciplines
- Writing a literature review
- Dedicated librarian teaches all five information literacy criteria
- Interactive session with practice doing searches and citing information
Group Meetings That Address Information Literacy: Other

- English faculty
- Summer research course
- Faculty mentors
- McNair staff:
  - Class addressing all five information literacy abilities
  - Seminar addressing information literacy
  - Course in research methods and writing
- Weekly research seminars—for credit
- Literature review workshops
“As Part of Their Program Participation, Are Your McNair Scholars Required to Meet with a Librarian?”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>61.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>39.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>100.0</td>
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Number of Librarian Meetings Required

Of the 36 programs (61%) that require a meeting with a librarian:

- 30% answered some version of “1” (required meeting)
- 20% answered some version of “2” (required meetings)
- 20% answered a range of more than 2 and up to once per month

- A few stated meetings were not required but strongly encouraged
Comments

“Reading through this [survey], I think we should do more with information literacy. I guess we assume that it will happen through the faculty mentors and in classes.”

“TRIO Works!”