Same Difference? A Comparison of Information Literacy Skills of Australian Undergraduate and Postgraduate Information Studies Students

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Demographics

133 students
Undergraduate  51 (38.3%) Postgraduate  82 (61.6%)

Curtin  40
Curtin OUA  19
Charles Sturt  74

Female  121  Age  39+ years (49.6%)
Male  12

Course Weighted Average  70-79 (Distinction), 42.1%
All Students

Searching, Evaluating & Study Practices

- Getting started on an assignment is difficult 51.1%
- Knowing how good an assignment is, is difficult 62.2%
- Library catalogues, databases, & course readings are most often used ~65%
- Developing an outline is often undertaken for an assignment 78.9%
- Library & web sources are often evaluated for currency 97.1% & 89.5%
- Passing the course is most important 98.5%

Students consult their tutor first and librarians last for information when preparing an assignment.
Undergraduate vs Postgraduate Students

Considering the URL of web sources
Developing an outline when preparing an assignment
Undergraduate vs Postgraduate Students

Improving writing skills when working on an assignment
Undergraduate Students
Searching, Evaluating & Study Practices

- Getting started on an assignment is difficult
  - 54.9%
- Knowing how good an assignment is, is difficult
  - 68.6%
- Information on social networking sites are rarely used
  - 82.4%
- Library and web sources are often evaluated for currency
  - 92.2 & 84.3%
- Deciding on search terms is often a first step for an assignment
  - 74.5%
- Passing the course & finishing the assignment are most important
  - 98%

Nearly 30% of the undergraduates rarely or never consult their tutor about assignments
Undergraduate Students
Stage in Degree

Referencing is difficult
- Just started: 50%
- Mostly 1st year units: 30%
- Mostly 2nd year units: 20%
- Mostly 3rd year units: 10%

Usually consider previous awareness of a website
- Just started: 60%
- Mostly 1st year units: 40%
- Mostly 2nd year units: 50%
- Mostly 3rd year units: 30%
Finding answers to include in an assignment to demonstrate research
Concluding remarks

• Formative assessment to improve student awareness of performance
• Develop study skills early in course
• Value of library and some web sources demonstrated & currency important
• Awareness of librarian as information consultant?
• New to study vs returning to study – experience?
• Undergraduates develop information literacy skills
Thank you