

Understanding international students' information research behaviour

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Outline

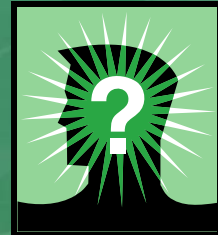
- Definitions
- Previous experiences
- Purpose and methodology
- Findings
- Limitations
- Discussion and next steps

Definitions

- International student
 - Not a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident
 - Full-time, part-time, transfer or exchange
 - Caution - multicultural student population
- Information research behaviour
 - Growing field of study
 - How one goes about seeking information

Experiences

- What has been your experience?
- What differences have you noticed?
- What have you heard?



Purpose and methodology

- Two main objectives
 - Learn about past and current experiences
 - Improve instructional support and services
- Focus group
 - Held in March 2007
 - 2 groups, selected sample
 - Questions on library use and research process
 - Short concluding survey

Findings

- Theme 1 – Past experiences
- Theme 2 – Noticeable differences
- Theme 3 – Difficulties or challenges



physical vs. online library

Findings

- Theme 4 – Searching for information



- Undergraduate vs. graduate students
- Web vs. library searching
- Citing sources



Theme 4 - Analysis

- Undergraduate vs. graduate students
 - Few obvious differences
 - Research process similar to literature
- Web vs. library searching
 - Google, Wikipedia and Google Scholar
 - Evaluation of sources
 - Library searches frustrating and overwhelming
- Citing sources
 - Marked differences with Asian students

Findings

- Theme 5 – Learning to use the library
- Theme 6 – Suggestions



Limitations

- Timing
- Sampling
- Language
- Moderation
- Technique
- Analysis

Discussion and next steps

- Reconsider assumptions
- Avoid segmenting student population
- Address use of the Web
 - Build on current experience
 - Reinforce evaluation
- Citing and plagiarising



Concluding remarks

- A word about the literature
- Learning styles and learning strategies
- More research required
- Avoid generalizations