Translating Information Literacy: Online Library Support for ESL Students

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Outline

• Literature
• Methodology
• Identify
• Locate
• Evaluate
• Use
• Discussion
Literature

• ESL literature mostly considers librarian and student attitudes, and effective support approaches (common theme is library anxiety)

• ESL and distance librarianship literature is mostly school or public library oriented
Methodology

- ESL students observed pursuing information literacy course objective (LENG 112)
Identify

• Almost half identified this as most difficult part of process

• Librarians should be familiar with assignments (ideally co-develop)
• create personal profiles in LMS class shells; "high context cultures" (e.g. Arab, Asian) prefer to first develop personal relationships before do business (Pachter 2013)
Locate

• expected databases to produce sources exactly addressing topics
• Keyword search strings difficult to construct

• Screen share technology – break topics down into searchable terms
• Database multiple language options, Google Translate (ask instructor)
• Simple search screens; set default to Basic
Evaluate

• struggled more with relevance than date or authority

• Read and explain abstract; ask topic related questions pertaining to it

• Ismail (2012), Tang, Tseng (2014) find ESL students prefer email
• East views intellectual property differently than West
• Citation mechanics posed problems, especially paraphrasing

• LibGuides, online tutorials effective (more appropriate than student-specific Locate, Evaluate techniques)
DISCUSSION