



# SMILE

making the most of other  
people's work - not reinventing  
the wheel!

Marion Kelt

Senior Librarian: Digital Development and Information  
Literacy, Glasgow Caledonian University





# Study **M**ethods and **I**nformation Literacy **E**xemplars

A blended learning approach to  
information literacy and  
communication skills






## ■ Issues

- Students need Information Literacy
- Students need academic writing skills
- Support fragmented – lots of different points of access
- Experience demonstrates value of single point of access (GCU SAS project)



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- “students struggle to use the resources...
  - ...are unable to evaluate what they find
  - ...unsure how to ethically use information
  - ...students do not produce as high standard of work as perhaps they are able”

Stubbings, R.E., D (2009). (r.e.stubbings@lboro.ac.uk) (19.02.2009) Evaluations.E-mail to:  
k.wrathall@worc.ac.uk



- We know the problems
- How do we solve them in a cost-effective way?
- Use OERs! (Open Educational Resources)
- We go green!
- We recycle what is already there, tailor it to our needs, and incorporate our own materials
- Simple!

Welcome  
to the  
Library







## Practical solutions

Information literacy + writing / employability skills =



# So what is it?

- Online information literacy training course
- Created as a JISC project jointly by Imperial College London, Loughborough University and University of Worcester
- Uses audio and video as well as web pages



# Once we had it, what did we do?

- Get Dreamweaver training
- Support from consultant (Katy Wrathall)
- Repair links, check functionality
- Change content to reflect GCU resources and add Caledonian training materials
- Develop new sections in response to demand





# How have we changed it?

- First we added:

- GCU online database tutorials (like Informs)
- Step-by-step walkthrough guides
- Systematic reviewing pages
- How to assess a research article
- Referencing examples using “GCU Harvard”
- More sections as requested by lecturers



# Employability:

- GCU produced a set of 21<sup>st</sup> century graduate attributes
- We mapped SMILE to them
- We also mapped to:
  - CBI graduate attributes
  - National Information Literacy Framework Scotland



# Employability

- HEA, British Psychological Society and the Association of Heads of Psychology Departments
- Recent report: The Future of Undergraduate Psychology in the United Kingdom
- Graduate attributes have also been mapped to SMILE



# Graduate attributes

- We found some gaps, so we wrote new modules.
- Unit 1 – What is a student?
  - Lets new students know what to expect at GCU
  - Discusses independent learning and learning styles
- Unit 12 - Your digital footprint.
  - Your web presence and the differences between personal and academic identity.



# Pilot project

- SMILE on blackboard - library community and individual modules
- SMILE drop-ins
- Embedding SMILE in modules
- Lesson plans for short delivery
- Feedback from librarianship placement student





# Embedding SMILE

- A series of face to face meetings with module leaders
- Demonstrate SMILE
- Offer deep links for use in blackboard
- First module - Investigating effective practice online
- Customising modules to suit requirements of lecturers and adapting them in response to feedback



# Embedding SMILE

- MSc Dissertation with Research Methods (Risk and Finance)
- Risk Management in organisations
- Managing Strategic and Operational Risk
- Accessing and assessing research for evidence-based practice
- Professional Development
- Fundamentals of nursing



# Embedding SMILE

- Evidence based quality improvement
- Imaging in oncology
- Skills for Professional Practice for Biosciences 1 and 2
- Research in health and social care practice
- IHS Oman Physiotherapy



# Embedding SMILE

- “Research methods”
  - Customising modules to suit requirements of School of Health and Life Sciences
- Further development:
  - Glasgow School for Business and Society
  - School of Engineering and Built Environment



# More additions to SMILE:

- Netiquette
- Grammar tips for health students
- Using Google effectively
- Camtasia vidcasts (more to come!)
- Writing a critical evaluation
- Writing up a search strategy with PRISMA.





# More additions to SMILE:

- General and research ethics
- How to do a poster presentation
- Practice based questions (using PICO and SPICE).
- Writing a research proposal
- Research design
- Survey design



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- Future development:
    - Finding freely available company information on the web. To be developed with Avtar Natt, BPP Business School, London
    - Experimental design
    - Data collection and analysis



# Evaluation

- Usage statistics from Blackboard
- Feedback from module leaders and online surveys
- Feedback from Student Staff consultative Committees





## Welcome to SMILE

SMILE is an online information and digital literacy training package which aims to teach you basic skills you need as a GCU student.

You can work through the units and test yourself as you go. Help is available from:

[Your Librarian drop-in sessions](#)

[Your Librarian](#)

[Academic Development tutors](#)

[Help at GCU London](#)

Use the menu at the right to choose a section. You can use the symbols at the foot of each page to move forward and back within a section.



1 What is a student?

2 Understanding the Question

3 Organising your Time

4 Gathering Information

5 Finding Information

6 Evaluating Information

7 Managing Information

8 Plagiarism

9 Harvard referencing

10 Numerical referencing

11 Communicating Information

12 Your digital footprint

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## What are learning styles?

Now we are going to look at different learning styles, how to identify your own and understand why it is important to you and your studies.

Understanding your learning style helps you get the most out of your university academic experience. Understanding the theory of learning styles helps you to present your work in the optimum way to a wider audience.



2 Understanding the Question

3 Organising your Time

4 Gathering Information

5 Finding Information

6 Evaluating Information

7 Managing Information

8 Plagiarism

9 Harvard referencing

10 Numerical referencing

11 Communicating Information

12 Current Awareness

Welcome  
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# The future

- We'd like to share SMILE with other academic libraries
- It is created under a creative commons license and stored on JORUM, so it is FREE!
- More information from [m.kelt@gcu.ac.uk](mailto:m.kelt@gcu.ac.uk)

Welcome  
to the  
Library





Want a peek?

SMILE

[http://www.gcu.ac.uk/library/SMILE/Unit\\_1\\_versions3/start.html](http://www.gcu.ac.uk/library/SMILE/Unit_1_versions3/start.html)

