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COUN 505: Research Methods (starting in the Spring of 2015)

Class Student Learning Objective 2: Students will demonstrate an ability to interpret research data from counseling journals and to assess the utility of the research.

Related Assessment Activity: Journal Article Critiques

This is the second Student Learning Objective of the class and is most closely related to the first, third, fourth, and sixth threshold concepts in Informational Literacy, scholarship is a conversation, authority is contextual and constructed, format as process, and information has value, respectively (Gibson & Jacobson, 2014). This class helps master's students in counseling to understand research methods and be able to understand and evaluate counseling literature.

The students completed assignments, including journal article critiques. The students searched for, found, evaluated, and shared empirical research studies related to the counseling. After completing their evaluation, each student completed an oral presentation to the class (information literacy concept of *scholarship is a conversation*; Gibson & Jacobson, 2014) where they shared what the researchers did, what the researchers found, and what the students took from the article (information literacy concept of *information has value*). The class discussed and critiqued the articles after the presentation, which shows the context of the study and highlights the generalizability of it (information literacy concept of *authority is contextual and constructed*; Gibson & Jacobson, 2014).

In the class, the students were taught how to search for solid sources, and librarian George Aulisio gave a presentation and demonstration on finding different kinds of sources (internet resources, scholarly articles, specifically peer-reviewed sources, etc.). With George Aulisio and after he left, the class discussed how to find and evaluate sources and information. For instance, the journal articles that the students have to complete are required to come from a journal from a division of the American Counseling Association (ACA).

- The rubric created to assess the fourth and sixth information literacy concepts (*format as process* and *information has value*).

