

Students Lack News Literacy



Librarians Notice Student Need for News Content

Students are increasingly coming to the reference desk looking for newspapers and access to other news content. UChicago librarians have noticed that their students do not possess key news literacy skills, or the ability to “access, analyze, evaluate, and communicate messages in a wide variety of forms.” (Aufderheide, 2004). News literacy is a vital life-long learning skill.

Presenters Welcome Additional Questions

LOEX attendees are welcome to contact our presenters for more information:

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University of Chicago Library Develops a News Literacy Program

The University of Chicago Library developed a program where students could learn about news databases and apps for smartphones or tablets.

Learning Objectives

We developed the following learning objectives for the program:

After the program, students will:

- Understand different news mediums
- Locate articles from news databases
- Understand current vs. historical databases
- Learn about two news apps for mobile devices on different platforms
- Understand a “news aggregator” and RSS feeds

Program Format

The initial program was a drop-in session where students could learn about news databases and try out iPad apps. But student feedback was clear:

- Students like hearing about resources, but are not interested in a “technology petting zoo”
- Multiple, repeat presentations of tools is burdensome for instructors

The Library moved to a traditional workshop format for later programs.



Resources Demonstrated

The Library demonstrated the following kinds of resources in the program:

- **News Databases**
Factiva, LexisNexis, ProQuest Newsstand, and ProQuest Historical Newspapers
- **News Aggregators**
Huffington Post, Google News
- **News Apps**
Flipboard, Pulse
- **Newspaper Indexes and Microfilm**

Student Feedback

While turnout was low, student feedback was very positive.

- Students were surprised by the variety of resources available to them.
- They wished they had learned about the resources earlier.
- Many were interested in newspapers for their job/career search.