Dust Off Those Encyclopedias:
Using Reference Sources to Teach the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy
PaLA 2016: Reaching New Heights
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reference work, n.
a source of factual information (originally a printed work, but now also electronic resource) intended for research or consultation on individual matters rather than continuous reading

threshold concept
“represents a transformed way of understanding...without which the learner cannot progress.”

Sample Learning Objectives

1) Searching as Strategic Exploration
   • to explore an unfamiliar subject area for potential research topics using subject encyclopedias
2) Research as Inquiry
   • to formulate a research question based upon factual information learned in a biographical dictionary
3) Authority is Constructed and Contextual
   • to identify multiple sources used by the author of an essay in a disciplinary handbook
4) Scholarship as Conversation
   • to illustrate a chain of scholarly conversation starting with an encyclopedia article and using a source it cites to find another source, and so on
5) Creation of Information is a Process
   • to explain how an edited reference work is compiled and synthesized
6) Information Has Value
   • to brainstorm different ways the information found in a gazetteer conveys or contains value
References


