

## IL Best Practices Overview:

- Use scaffolding during the research process, don't just require one project at the end of the semester
- Determine the degree to which you want students to demonstrate each area and craft assignments accordingly
- Require lots of things that demonstrate process without needing to be formally graded
  - Checkpoint assignments
  - Peer review/groups for feedback on tools, techniques, and strategies

## Outcomes:

- Students will demonstrate ability to draft research questions from a broad initial topic and derive suitable search vocabulary.
  - Simple worksheet including some or all of the following:
    - Topic
    - Research Question/Focus
    - Identified broad overview source (encyclopedia, book, popular magazine article, website...)
    - Which search tools they will use for finding which types of resources
    - Initial keyword/synonym grid
    - Complete search string they will enter in the box
- Identify and access appropriate information resources, such as library catalog; library subscription data bases; and the free web
  - The larger assignment can require certain types of sources and the checkpoint assignment can have students tell which tool(s) they will use to locate that type of resource
  - Have students list what they hope to find from which kind of resources and which tools will get them to those resources.
- Students will demonstrate knowledge of search strategies suitable for a variety of search tools
  - Almost all library search tools have a mechanism for listing the search history of a session. Ask for this as a printout with however much explication is desired.
- Students will evaluate search results, select and acquire the most appropriate information source(s)
  - Have students print out or submit a list of results from the search tool and include a paragraph on why they chose the ones they did.
- Students will read, analyze, synthesize, cite and report back relevant information or data obtained from the sources gathered
  - Citation style assignments
  - Main assignment rubrics