

Developing a process-orientated web tutorial in information literacy for students

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Høgskolen i Telemark

Guide to information literacy



<u>Om råd&VINK | Kontakt | Ansvarlig: Biblioteket HiT og Biblioteket HSH</u>



Telemark University College (HIT), Norway and Stord/Haugesund University College (HSH)



- HIT
 - 5,000 students
 - 450 staff
 - 4 libraries
 - 15 library staff
- HSH
 - 2,200 students
 - 250 staff
 - 2 libraries
 - 9 library staff



The project

- May 2003: Project proposal
- July 2003: Successful bid for funding
- October 2003 December 2004: Project period
- January March 2004: Publication and implementation



Organisation

- Project group: 2 head librarians, 3 librarians
 - Including 2 project workers (part time)
- Reference group: Librarians and academics from HIT, HSH and other institutions



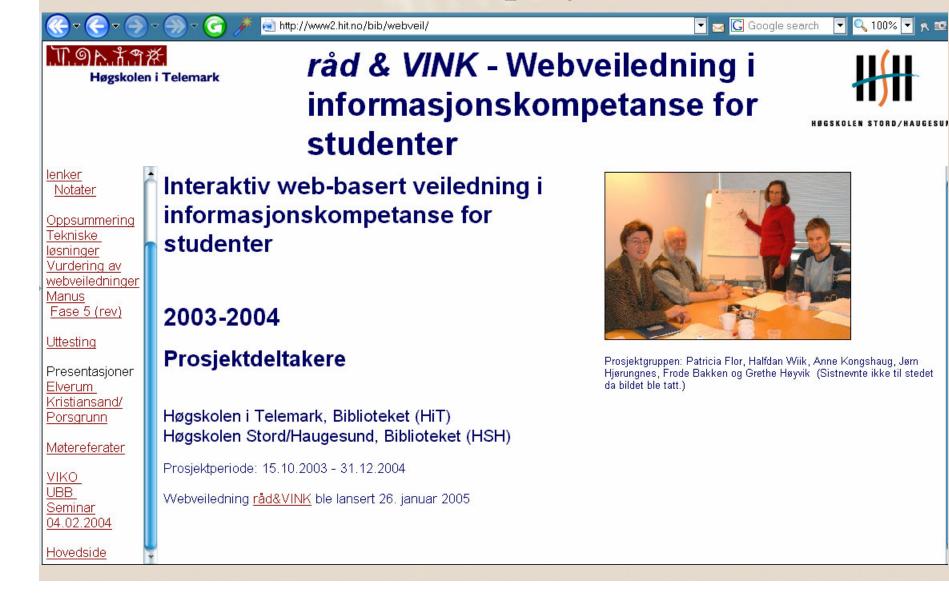
Aims

- To create a web tutorial/guide in information literacy
 - For use in process-orientated user education
 - As a "stand-alone" for distance learning students
 - Suitable for undergraduate students, particularly new students
- In modules
- Freely available on the WWW



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The website for the project





The project

- Phase 1
 - o Project plan and time schedule
 - o Literature study
 - o Evaluation of existing web tutorials/guide
 - o Choice of educational approach
- Phase 2
 - o Specification for content and form
 - o Manuscript
 - o Specification for the web designer and illustrator
- Phase 3
 - o Construction and adjustment
 - o Testing via observation and focus groups
- Phase 4
 - o Publication and presentation



Information literacy

• "To be information literate, a person must be able to recognise when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information."

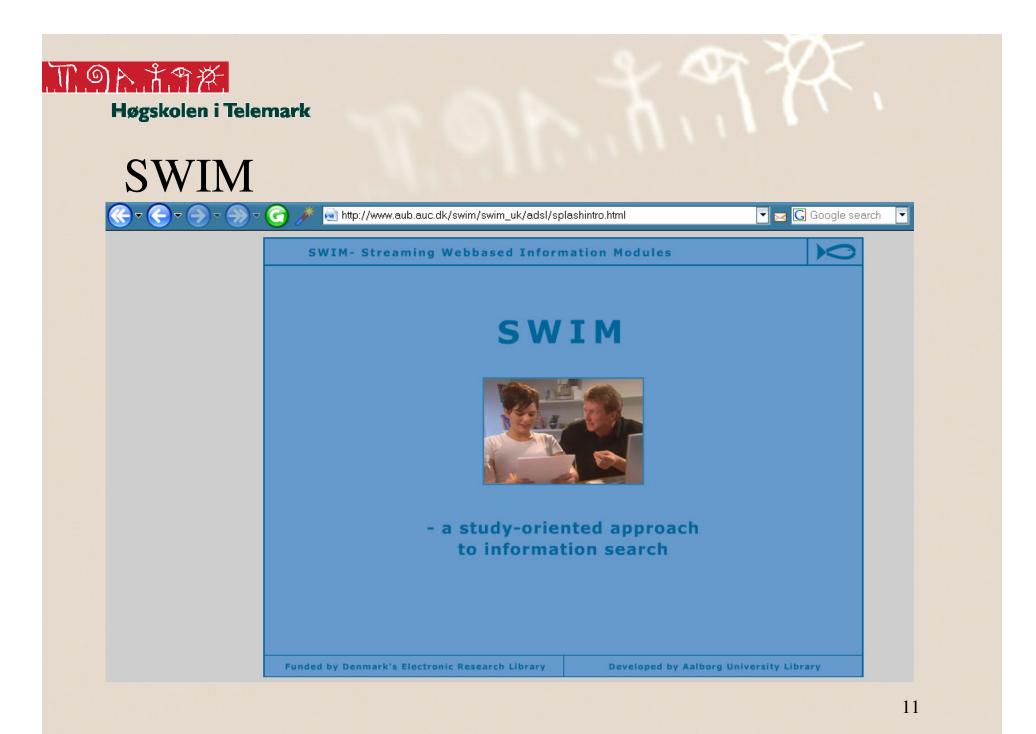
American Library Association Presidential Committee on Information Literacy (1989) Final report. Chicago: ALA.



Learning theories

Constructivistic approach

- Stimulation to
 - Active participation
 - Problem-solving
 - Reflection
 - Deep learning





Kuhlthau's Information Search Process

- Task initiation
- Topic selection
- Prefocus formulation
- Focus formulation
- Information collection
- Search closure, including report writing

Each stage has a set of thoughts, emotions, actions, strategies and moods.



Kuhlthau's ISP

- Contructivistic approach
- Information seeking = a process for seeking meaning
- Cognitive and affective process
 - Thoughts
 - Emotions
 - Moods
 - Actions
 - Strategies



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Process-orientated tutorial based on Kuhlthau's ISP





What do we do now?





The Toolbox



- Study techniques
- Search strategies and techniques
- Search guides to specific databases
- Evaluation techniques
- Writing techniques, including citation





Web design: tutorials

- Interactivity
- Realistic scenarios
- Evaluation along the way
- Steered and self-steered routes
- Good navigation
- Overall views of the content

Dewald, Nancy (2000) Information literacy at a distance: instructional design issues. *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, vol. 26, no. 1, pp. 33-44.



Information design

- Readability
 - Font type and font size
 - Contrast
 - Length of text line
 - Length of paragraphs
 - Use of headings and bullet lists
 - Minimum amount of scrolling
 - Graphics and illustration that emphasize the message
- Information from simple to detailed (3-stage rocket)



Testing

- Observation tests
- Focus groups



Publication and presentation

- College web news
- Library mail group lists
- Presentations in the college libraries
- Promotional material (bookmarks, pens, t-shirts)
- Presentations at faculty meetings
- Presentations at library seminars
- Publications
- Promotion at the library counter



User education

- Improving our teaching skills
- Process-orientated user education
- Cooperation with faculty



Conclusion

- Release the project workers from ordinary duties
- Define your goals
- Decide on an educational approach
- Follow principles for good information design and web design
- Match the web tutorial to the library's teaching methods (or vice versa!)
- Have a good portion of enthusiasm!