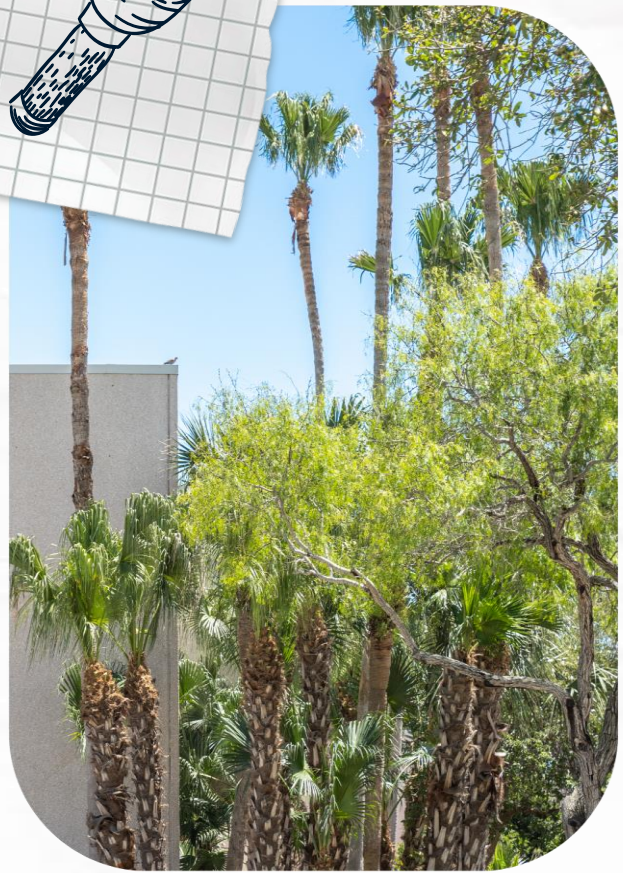


Out on a Limb: Integrating Library Information Literacy Micro-Courses in First-Year Courses

Lorin Flores
Patricia Hernandez
Emily Murphy

Texas A&M University Corpus Christi | Mary and Jeff Bell Library

Learning Outcomes

01 Microlearning/Micro-Courses

Define and Understand Benefits

02 Micro-Course Implementation

Successful Strategies for Implementation

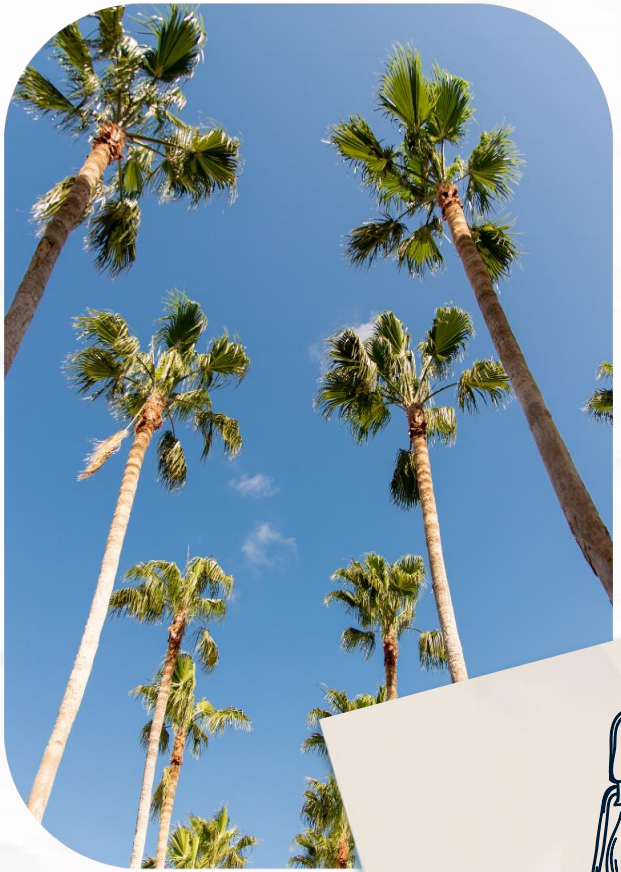
03 Identify Tools and Resources

Inventory to Begin Rapid Implementation

04 Community Building

Compare Notes and Chat!

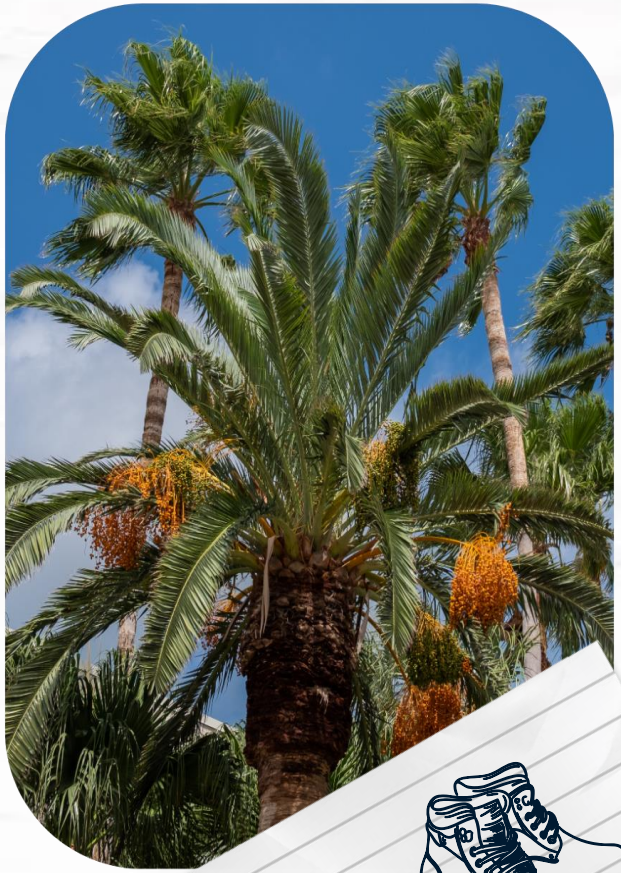
TAMUCC



Quick Facts*:

- 10,778 students
- 2,358 First-Years
- 35-37 First-Year Seminar Courses

*Planning, Analytics, Institutional Research, & Strategic Initiatives. (2023). *Quick Facts-Fall 2022* [Infographic]. https://www.tamucc.edu/president/pir/assets/documents/quickfacts-pir.pdf



01 Microlearning/ Micro-Courses

How this all began and defining the terms according to us

I'm going to hand this over now

TikTok, Reels, and Shorts…Oh My!!

Teach me in 3-minutes or less, please.

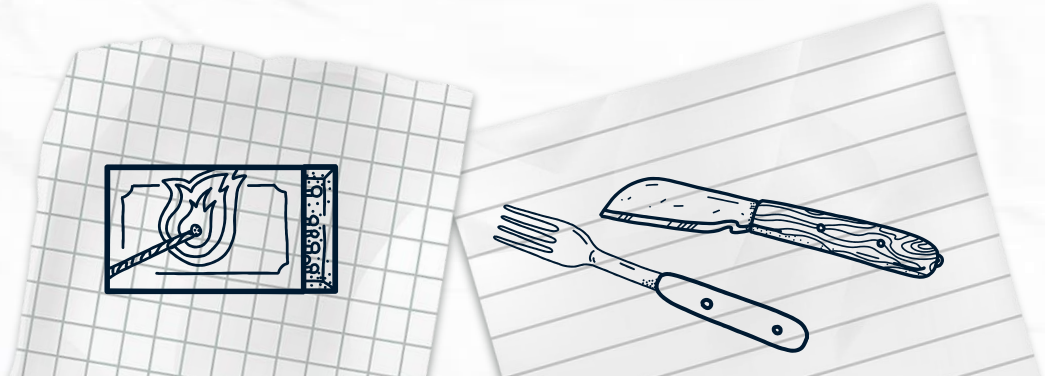
Adrienne Sheares
@AdriSheares

As an elder millennial who came of age when Google became a verb, I had difficulty grasping that ~40% of Gen Zers use TikTok for search.

So I hosted a mini-focus group with Gen Zers to learn more.

Here are 3 takeaways:

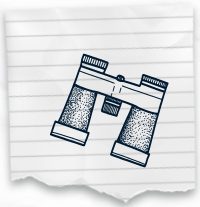
7:23 PM · Aug 11, 2022



3 Focus Group Takeaways

Fast and Targeted

Treadmill of life is faster and faster, so answers should come fast as well. Perk – the algorithm knows their preferences.



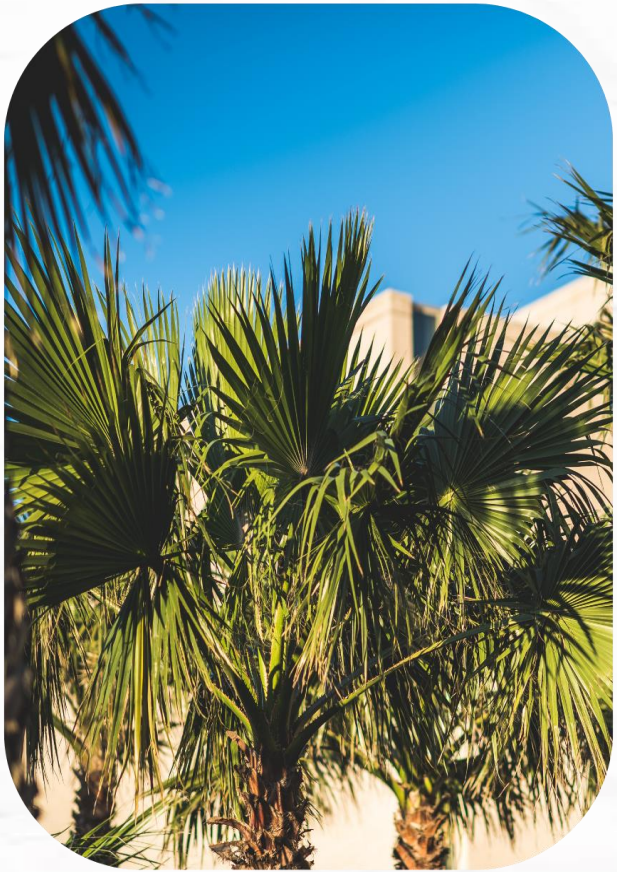
Misinformation is Avoidable

Does misinformation via these platforms exist? Yes, but they're avoidable.

Videos Please!

Videos are the preferred way to digest information.

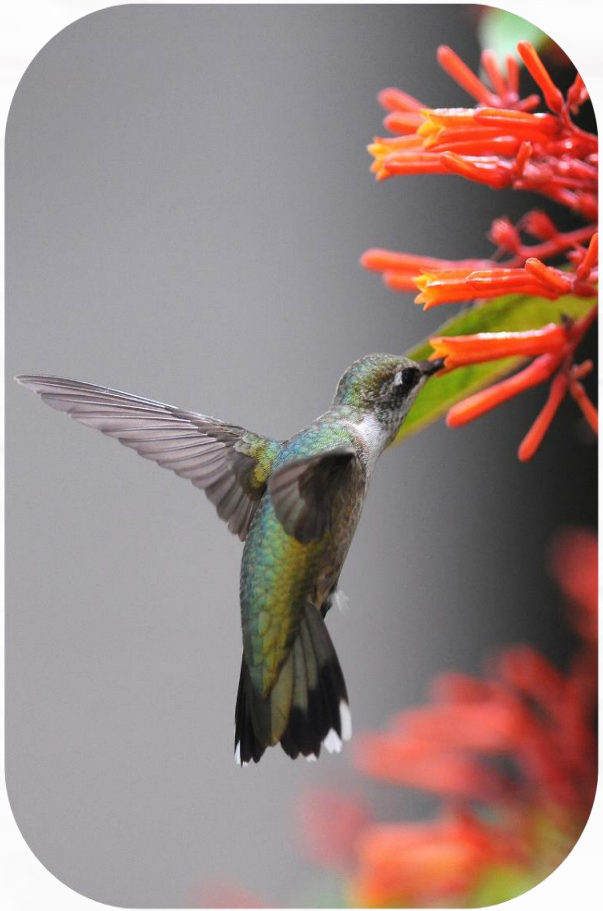
Pivoting To Micro-courses



"Microlearning is generally characterized by low time commitment, small chunks, short effort, and narrow topics, but it is complex as a whole."

Theo Hug & Norm Friesen (2007)

*quoted in Mery, Y. (2022). Chapter 2. A case for microlearning. Library Technology Reports, 58(5), 10–13.



Microlearning is…

- “Bite-sized” content
- Single Learning Outcome
- More engaging for learners
- Evidence of better learning outcomes
- Reduces cognitive load for more effective information processing*

*Hunter, R. (2020). Can you teach research in 10 minutes? Embedding information literacy micro-sessions in module programmes. *Journal of Learning Development in Higher Education*, (19).

Microlearning is also…*

Brief

10 minutes proposed as ideal completion time.

Complete

Includes elements such as content, practice, feedback and more.

Fast-acting

Intended to be applied immediately.

Easy to Access

Platforms familiar to students and easily navigable are key.

Non-sequential

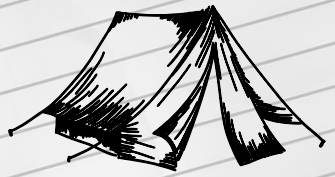
Can consist of multiple related narrow topics in a series, but each topic can stand alone.

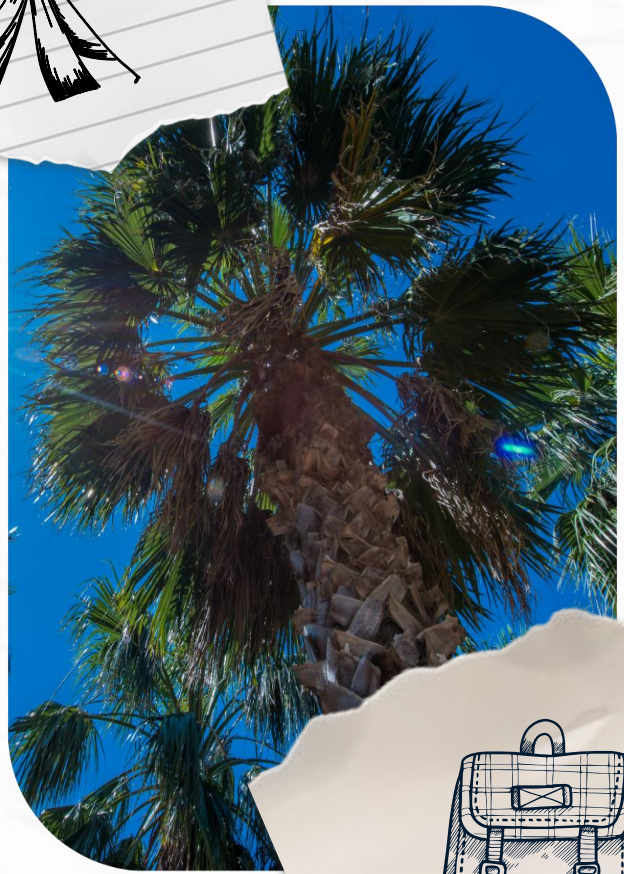
*Mery, Y. (2022). Chapter. 2. A case for microlearning. Library Technology Reports, 58(5), 10-13

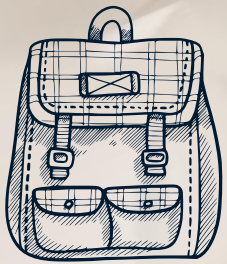
02

Micro-Course Implementation

Implementing our micro-course idea and the results/future aspirations

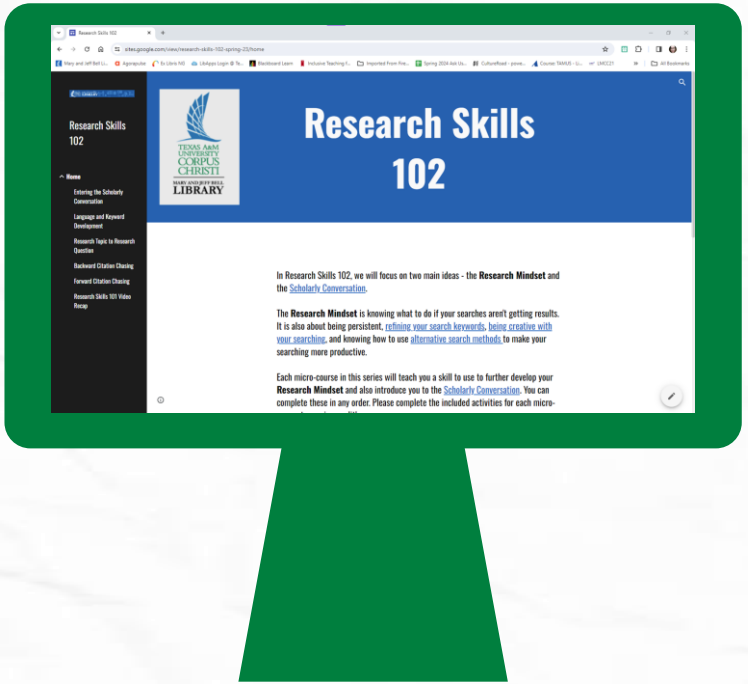






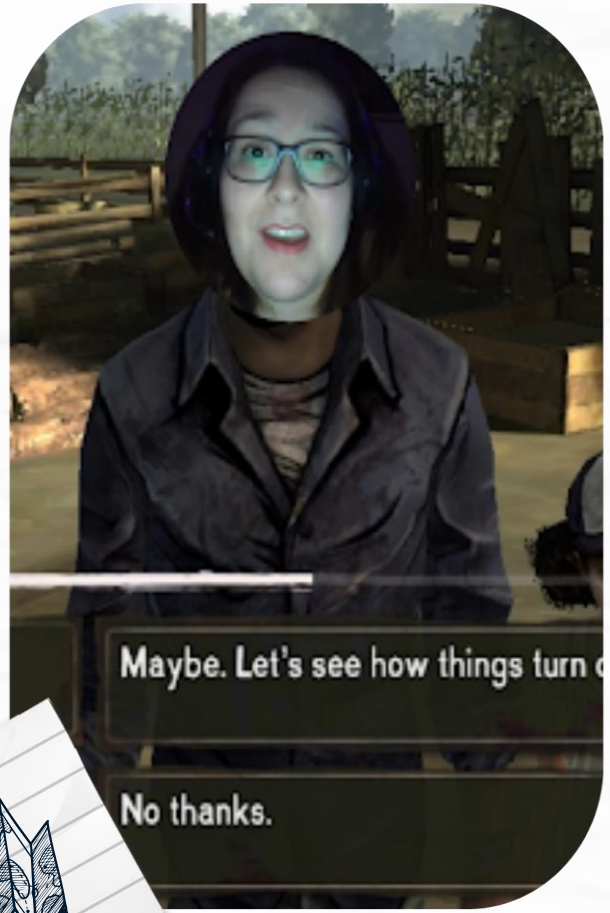
Introducing Research Skills 102

- 5 Topics
  - Entering the Scholarly Conversation
  - Keyword and Language Development
  - Research Topic to Research Question
  - Backward Citation Chasing
  - Forward Citation Chasing
- Hosted through Google Sites
- Recap video of RSkills 101



RSkills 102: What we learned

- Pros
  - The short video formats were a success!
  - Pausing opportunities
- Cons
  - Jumping out of the LMS to Google Sites



Research Skills 101 & 102 Redux

Two developments in Spring/Summer 2023 fueled the continuing evolution of Research Skills 101 and 102.

- Access to Articulate/Rise 360
- Integration into Blackboard

Continuing dialogue and feedback with faculty provided us with updates on subtle changes in the way micro-courses were taught.

How does media about sharks affect tourism in Texas?

https://bit.ly/micro-courses-LOEX24

Future Directions

IRB Study

Is this approach as effective as we think it should be? Are students understanding the concepts and developing the skills we're hoping they develop to adequately fulfill the scaffolded approach to information literacy we're aiming for?

Aspirations

Micro-courses aren't just for First-Year Seminar courses. Part of our exploration of the format has included a micro-course revamp of our annual instruction retreat, plus plans to create stand-alone content for faculty and micro-concepts like SWIFT.

03

Identifying Tools and Resources

Let’s workshop and connect!

“You need to be aware of what others are doing, applaud their efforts, acknowledge their successes, and encourage them in their pursuits. When we all help one another, everybody wins.”

—Jim Stovall

Brainstorming Time

What do First-Year Students/other population of students need to know?

Identify a student population and list the top 5 info lit themes they need to know.

What info lit themes are you currently teaching?

We teach so much! This is the tough part – break down your lessons to key themes.

Combo Time!

Identify the themes that are priorities for your student population of focus and list them.

Taking Stock: A Collective Inventory

03 Equipment

Funds of Knowledge 02

04 Technology

Staffing 01

What other needs do you anticipate?

https://bit.ly/collective-inventory-LOEX24

04 Community

The fun doesn’t have to end here!

ACRL Course!!

- Title: Building an Information Literacy Micro-Course in 6 Weeks
- Featuring:
  - Step-by-step guide on the process of planning and implementing your own info lit micro-course in only six weeks
  - Each Week Includes:
    - Video
    - Readings
    - Mini Assessment to model micro-learning
    - Optional Discussion
- Filming, editing, and instruction experience not required
- Supplemental resources will be provided
- June 3 – July 12
- ALA Member: $260.10
- Non Member: $289.00
- Division Member: $185.00

https://bit.ly/6weeks-microcourses

Thanks!

Connect with us!
Lorin.Flores@tamucc.edu
Patricia.Hernandez@tamucc.edu
emjsmurphy@gmail.com

CREDITS: This presentation template was created by Slidesgo, and includes icons by Flaticon, and infographics & images by Freepik