

We have to do what now?!

Sustainable innovation for library instruction programs

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DISCUSSION

Are you experiencing trend fatigue?



[PollEv.com/tessawithorn180](https://pollEv.com/tessawithorn180)

- What trends are you encountering at your library/institution?
- What are your feelings around keeping up with trends in IL instruction?
- How are you incorporating trending topics into your instruction? If not, why?

The background of the slide is a photograph of a greenhouse. In the foreground, there are several green pea plants with tendrils. In the background, there are rows of seed trays containing small plants at various stages of growth. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter.

UofL's Instruction Program

- Relatively traditional model for course-integrated IL instruction
- Additional IL initiatives beyond the classroom, often interdisciplinary in nature
- Increasingly team-based liaison structure to facilitate innovation

A background image showing a hand reaching into a garden bed filled with green leafy plants, possibly lettuce or spinach, growing in dark soil. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter.

What is sustainable innovation?

Our approach is to not allow trend fatigue to prevent us from moving forward, striking a **balance** between teaching “how to library” while staying on top of trends, without being **burnt out** on it.

You don't have to revamp your whole program to maintain **what is good for the library** in the long run.

Instructional materials can be **evergreen**.

Tenets of Sustainable Innovation

**Don't get
hung up
over
expertise.**

You don't
have to know
everything.

**Rapid
prototyping
is a must.**

Just make it!
You can
iterate later.

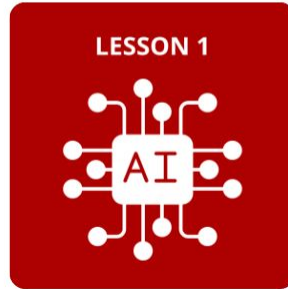
**Teamwork
balances the
workload.**

Find
collaborators
with varied
strengths.

**Students'
immediate
research needs
are the priority!**

We're still
the library.

Examples of sustainable innovation at UofL



GenAI for College Students

A micro-course with 6 lessons built collaboratively with the Writing Center and Digital Media Suite. Filled a gap on campus for student-centered AI resources.

- Gained foundational understanding of AI then went for it!
- Created the microcourse in just a few weeks to launch in the Fall semester

Willenborg, A., & Withorn, T. (2025). "Generative AI for College Students": A Collaboratively Developed Online Microcourse on GenAI in the College Classroom. *Communications in Information Literacy*.

Examples of sustainable innovation at UofL



Lateral Reading

Practice "lateral reading," a strategy used by professional fact-checkers to investigate the reliability of online sources.

GO

Citizen Literacy Toolkit

Initially developed in 2020 as a resource for faculty to incorporate news literacy & related IL skills into particular disciplinary contexts.

- Divided up the work according to individual strengths & kept the team intentionally small to maximize efficiency
- Completed during the summer & launched in time for the 2020 election

Detmering, R., Holtze, T., & Willenborg, A. (2021). On the lookout for lizards: Online tools for informed democratic citizenship. UofL ThinkIR Repository.

A woman with blonde hair is seen from the side, sitting in the driver's seat of a car. She is holding a large, unfolded map and looking at it. The car is on a paved road that curves through a vast, green valley. In the distance, there are large, rugged mountains with some snow on their peaks. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter.

ACTIVITY

Fill out your sustainable innovation roadmap.

Trend examples: AI, misinformation, college readiness, assessment, data literacy, affordable learning

Questions?

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