

Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy 2022 Report

Submitted by Jordan Moore, Teva Sweet, and Patrice Williams

The Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy (GA COIL) took place virtually March 31 – April 1, 2022. Several members of the Research, Learning, and Technology Services attended. Below are their reactions to the conference.

Jordan Moore, Reference Librarian

Many of the sessions at GA COIL served as reminders that we at Woodruff Library are engaging with (and have been for some time) some concepts that other institutions have only recently started paying attention to. This is particularly true of diversity and inclusion initiatives in course design, instruction, and campus engagement. For example, the session, “Critical and Open Assignments to Amplify Non-dominant Voices” discussed the importance of pushing back against white patriarchal hegemony in scholarship, and the potential of Open Educational Resources as a means to that end. At the same time, many sessions also made me think of all the ways I can continue to improve the classroom (or virtual classroom) experience for students and myself. For example, the session “Academic Power Structures & Information: Going the Distance for Lifelong Learning” caused me to think about how I can give students more nuanced useful descriptions of scholarly and non-scholarly sources for the same purpose of diversity and inclusion.

Teva Sweet, Unit Head, Access Services

Many of the sessions that I attended covered ideas that our library has already implemented, but the session by Katelyn Sabelko from Briar Cliff University on “Human Library Events and Information Literacy” stood out to me. I enjoyed learning how librarians invited individuals into the library to be “checked out” by students. Students were able to listen to first person accounts and gain various lessons from the interactions. Students learned that authority is contextual, they were exposed to a diverse individuals and because Briar Cliff University used the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education when planning their events, students also learned about information creation as a process. I was also impressed that during the pandemic, the Bishop Mueller Library was able to move their human library events to the virtual space. I think that RWL could implement a similar program.

Patrice Williams, Reference Librarian

An interesting session I attended was “Cultivating Information Literacy Instruction Practices in a Virtual Environment” presented by Amanda Hahn and Kathryn Eckler of Liberty University. This presentation was very helpful introducing information literacy methods, outside of CRAAP

and IF I APPLY, used at other libraries. The Sift Method was created for a research method's course but can be applied to information literacy as it takes students through six steps. ACT UP is also another research method that was mentioned that could be applied to information literacy that takes students through five steps. Both methods seemed similar to CRAAP and IF I Apply but worded each approach differently. It is something to consider for our instruction methods.

SIFT Method

- Stop
- Investigate the source
- Find better coverage
- Trace claims, quotes, and media back to the original context

ACT UP Method

- Author
- Currency
- Truth
- Unbiased
- Privilege

Please feel free to visit <https://sites.google.com/georgiasouthern.edu/gicoil22/home> for more information on GA COIL, and reach out to us with any further questions or thoughts.

Thank you for reading!