



Connecting Learners to Libraries Outcomes Based (OBE) Evaluation Logic Model Scenario

The Problem:

Millard Fillmore High School in Opossum Bend has been using culminating projects (CULPs) as an assessment system for seniors. The faculty have identified a number of challenges associated with the project that inhibit teaching and learning and lead to poor student performance. The students were struggling with their research questions, and many did not know how to take their ideas and natural curiosity and turn it into a formal information search. Often their topics were so wide ranging that the school library did not have the resources to support their research. Students were turning to the Internet, especially the Wikipedia, often with mixed results. Carolyn Spruce, the teacher-librarian at Fillmore, was fielding calls from the public library -- the staff there didn't understand what students were working on, and the students were having a hard time explaining their projects. The teachers were equally frustrated with the project, particularly the research component. They had a difficult time assessing the quality of student research, and the project guidelines were too vague. When the projects were graded, the research marks varied widely, and the parents were upset! Their students had worked hard, and they didn't understand the grading criteria.

The Solution:

Carolyn had a meeting with the head of the Language Arts department. Together they devised a three-part strategy to overcome these emerging problems:

- Carolyn could create resources that would guide student inquiry, helping them turn their ideas into actionable steps. She will create a senior project webpage that students could use, linking them to useful websites and suggested print resources as well. Workshops at school and at the public library would help introduce students to important resource collections.
- Carolyn would coordinate her efforts with the public library to increase the breadth and depth of resources offered to students. Having the public library "in the loop" would also help the staff better meet students' needs. Students will be encouraged to use the public library as an important resource for their projects.
- Working with the Language Arts teachers, Carolyn would guide the development of standards for student research based on the school research model. She will provide training in how to evaluate research processes and products. The rubric will become part of the assessment criteria for the CULP.

How will Carolyn assess her plan?