Information Literacy Resources for Curriculum Development

Information Literacy Committee

Fall 2009

Annotated Bibliography Assignment

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Assignment Description

Annotated Bibliography Assignment (10pts)

Your assignment is to find 4 book chapters, journal articles, magazine articles, or internet web sites that create or cite a definition of visual literacy. Each of these sources should offer a different definition of the term. Read the source and include each in an evaluative annotated bibliography.

To begin…

A. Use the "LibGuide" link from the library homepage (it is also available in TLearn) to find the research guide for our class. This guide offers suggestions for locating materials on your topic. You should use a variety of sources, and you may actually browse many book chapters, articles, or web sites before making your final selection. Note: <u>only two</u> internet sources should be included in your final four.

B. After you have selected and read your four texts, create an annotated bibliography entry for each text. Each entry should include

       (1) a citation of the text in APA format,
       (2) a brief summary of the entire text,
       (3) the definition of visual literacy that is used in that text, and
       (4) your evaluation of the source and the definition.

C. As a guideline, each annotation should be between 150 and 250 words in length. Your final submission should be typed in a standard font. (See page two for a format model.)

Due date: September 28 at 9:30am

Grading rubric:

Source location and selection	2
Citation Method	3
Annotations	3
Mechanics	2

Student Name

Professor Harris

GNED 1300-8: Images as Information

28 September 2009

Annotated Bibliography

Helfand, J. (2001). *Screen: Essays on Graphic Design, New Media, and Visual Culture*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press.

Helfand's collection of essays (previously published in Eye magazine) focuses on how technological sophistication and the power of online communications have changed the manner in which computer users perceive, critique, and embrace visual and auditory design on the World Wide Web. The author's experience as a visual/virtual designer informs her critical review of how the ease of electronic design (due to prefabricated software templates) may not necessarily result in the most efficient design for web audiences, and that while contemporary web designers may possess a functional design literacy, they are not equipped with the kind of critical literacy that will lead to aesthetic and performative innovations. Visual literacy is necessary to critical literacy in this case, and Helfand defines visual literacy as "the ability to read images and understand the ways that others read images."

This source would be useful to researchers interested in graphic design or new media. Helfand uses very few outside sources in her work and is more likely to use examples of visual or screen texts, so the audience for this book could be scholarly or popular. The author's definition of visual literacy is adequate but does not seem particularly distinctive.