Integrating Intersectionality into Library Instruction & Programming

Library Instruction West 2018

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Discussion overview

- Welcome
- Definition
- Instruction experiences
- Programming experiences
- Small group discussion

Resource guide: libguides.ucmerced.edu/integrating_intersectionality
"Intersectionality refers to the interaction between gender, race, and other categories of difference in individual lives, social practices, institutional arrangements, and cultural ideologies and the outcomes of these interactions in terms of power" (emphasis added; Davis, 2008, p. 68).
Instruction

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Merced | California
UC Merced quick facts

- Public research university
  - Newest UC (2005)
  - HSI (2010)
  - R2 (2016)

- 2017/2018 stats
  - 7,375 undergrads / 592 graduate students
  - 50.9% female / 48.5% male
  - 72.8% first-generation
  - 53.3% Hispanic / Latinx
  - 20.5% Asian / Pacific Islander

- Writing 10
  - First-year writing course
  - 20 students / section
  - 75 sections in Fall 2018


WRI 10 intersectionality theme

Challenges

- Understanding the prompt
- Developing context for research questions
- Selecting databases

Solutions

- Kimberlé W. Crenshaw’s Ted Talk
- Adding layers of complexity to examples
- Exploring Credo Reference & catalog
- “Intersecting” databases activity

Examples

Here are two examples of intersectional investigations. You can use specific genders, sexualities, races, and ethnicities in your own explorations. Picking a topic takes research. It will take some reading to figure out how you will address your issue/movement, so if you only have a broad idea in mind for now, that’s okay.

Example 1
- **Social issue/problem/movement**: Black power movement
- **Apply race/gender**: African-American/black women
- **After doing some exploring, I want to learn about**: the relationship between the Black power movement and black women. In particular, I want to learn when/under what set of circumstances did the Black power movement begin to consider the oppression of black women more specifically. What did this lead to?

Example 2
- **Social issue/problem/movement**: equal pay
- **Apply race/gender**: African-American/Black women
- **After doing some exploring, I want to learn about**: the particular barriers African-American/black women experience that contribute to the wage gap between white and African-American/black women. Are there some similarities between these two groups when it comes to equal pay? What are the differences? Why?
Programming

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USC quick facts

- Private research university
- 2017/2018 stats
  - 19,000 undergrads
  - 26,500 graduate & professional students
  - 51% female / 49% male
  - 17% first-generation
  - 16.6% Asian / Pacific Islander
  - 5.7% Black / African American
  - 14.1% Hispanic / Latinx


Programming intersectionality theme

Challenges

● Engaging students and presenting pedagogical concepts outside the classroom setting

Solutions

● Social identities activity
● Partnering with student affairs and student organizations
  ○ Project ReMiX
● Stand-alone library exhibits and events
  ○ Ex. See Yourself in the Library - Archives Project
Discussion questions

- What are the constraints that stop you from engaging in practices similar to what we have described?

- What resources / activities have you used in your instruction to help first-year students better understand social issues?

- What is one thing you can do in your instruction and/or programming in the fall to forward intersectional themes / topics / ideas?

- What/who are some potential campus partners you could work with to promote intersectional themes / topics / ideas?

Have one member of your group take notes online: bit.ly/intersectionality_liw18
Resources

libguides.ucmerced.edu/integrating_intersectionality

Thank you!