Stepping up to the plate: Experiences as first-time instructors of a Library Research in Context class

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Our special for the Fall 2011 semester is a tantalizing 1 credit hour undergraduate course served online that will fill your brain with information literacy skills! It is specially designed for health sciences majors and prepared by two clinical education librarians.

**Appetizing Purpose:**
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**Recipe:**
- Start with an empty course management site
- Gather information literacy skills
- Divide ingredients into 9 modules
- Spice it up with active learning elements
- Cook: Final Thoughts:
  - Cook for about 17 weeks
  - Serve students sample stew every two weeks
  - Adjust spice based on student feedback

**Special of the Day:**
Library Research in Context Stew

**Information Literacy Skills (Ingredients):**
- A) Searchable questions
- B) Secondary Literature
- C) Research Process
- D) Primary Literature
- E) Critical Thinking
- F) Search strategies
- G) Citations
- H) Ethics

**Active Learning Elements (Spices):**
- A) Discussion Board
- B) Assignments
- C) Pre/Post-Tests
- D) Final Project
- E) Self Assessment

**Putting it all Together!**
Instructors’ Experience:
- Communicated clearly defined guidelines for assignments
- Developed realistic expectations for student involvement
- Learned that students...
- May not mention problems with course management systems
- Don’t always comply with course guidelines

Stepping up to the Plate:

**Students’ Experience:**
- No evidence of food poisoning.
- Overall positive student feedback.
- Improved information literacy skills.

**Instructors’ Experience:**
- Overall positive student feedback.
- Improved information literacy skills.

**Purpose:**
This study was approved by the IRB Office at the University of Iowa.

**IRB ID#: 201202713**

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**Library Research in Context**
- Unit 1: Introductions
- Unit 2: Preparing to Search
- Unit 3: Primary vs. Secondary Research
- Unit 4: UI Resources
- Unit 5: Keyword Searching and Websites
- Unit 6: Selecting and Searching Electronic Resources
- Unit 7: Levels of Evidence and Evaluating Literature
- Unit 8: Scholarly Communication and Publishing
- Unit 9: Wrapping it all Up

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