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Inform, Expand, and Focus: Using the Concept of Pre-Research in Information Literacy Instruction

Natalie Bishop
Gardner-Webb University, nebishop@gardner-webb.edu

Laurie Baumgardner
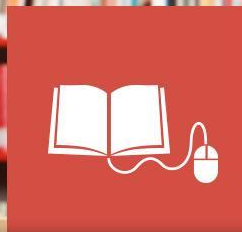*Gardner-Webb University*, lbaumgardner@gardner-webb.edu

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Using the Concept of Pre-Research in Information LIteracy Instruction
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What's Your Reference Strategy?

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Your Presenters

Natalie Bishop, Instruction Librarian
Gardner-Webb University

Laurie Baumgardner, Acquisitions Librarian
Gardner-Webb University

Heather Blaine Wiegand, Credo
Director, Marketing Services

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Inform, Expand, and Focus:

Using the Concept of Pre-Research in Information Literacy Instruction

Pre-Research

Pre-Research – the preliminary research you do before you are ready to immerse yourself in a topic.

ACRL Framework for Information Literacy

- **Searching as Strategic Exploration**
  - "Searching for information is often nonlinear and iterative, requiring the evaluation of a range of information sources and the mental flexibility to pursue alternate avenues as new understanding develops."

- **Scholarship as a Conversation**
  - "Communities of scholars, researchers, or professionals engage in sustained discourse with new insights and discoveries occurring over time as a result of varied perspectives and interpretations."

- **Research as Inquiry**
  - "Research is iterative and depends upon asking increasingly complex or new questions whose answers in turn develop additional questions or lines of inquiry in any field."

- **Information Creation as a Process**
  - "Information in any format is produced to convey a message and is shared via a selected delivery method. The iterative processes of researching, creating, revising, and disseminating information vary, and the resulting product reflects these differences."

Information Literacy Program

UNIVERSITY 111

- Freshman
- 2 library sessions
- Wide range of topics from a variety of subject areas
- Independent or group projects

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Introduce Threshold Concepts

ENGLISH 102

- Freshmen/Sophomore
- 1 or 2 library sessions
- Wide range of topics from a variety of subject areas
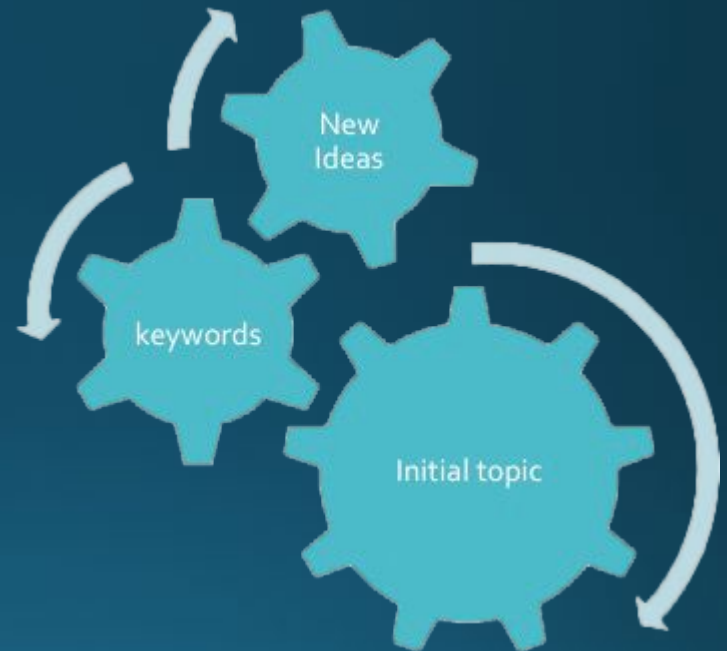- Independent projects

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## Reinforce Threshold Concepts

In UNIV 111, we have students Pre-Research their topics in Credo Reference.

The goal of the Pre-Research is to:

- Bridge their knowledge gap about the topic

- Gain exposure to new ideas and scholarly language

- Identify new keywords

New Ideas

keywords

Initial topic

Students begin by creating a concept map. As they locate new information on their topic in Credo, they begin to expand their map by adding new keywords and ideas.
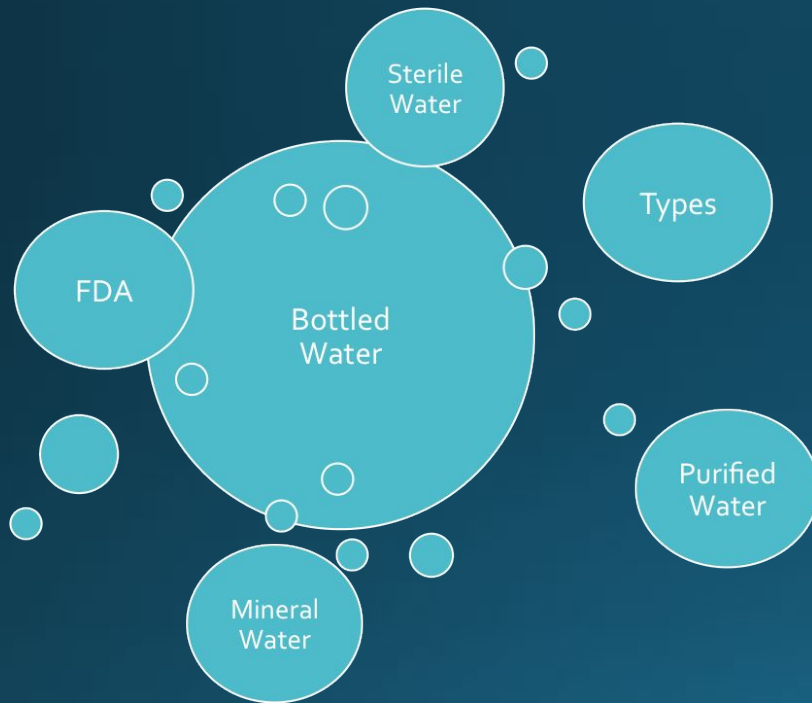
There are numerous types of bottled water, such as artesian, well, spring, purified, and mineral. The FDA's Standard of Identity establishes the requirements each type of water must meet; these standards are based on the water source and the methods used to treat the water. It may be difficult for the average consumer to understand the differences between types of bottled water without educating themselves. The types are as follows:

- *Artesian water.* Aquifers are underground bodies of water. Confined aquifers have a layer material with extremely low permeability over the top of them, which may cause the water to be under pressure. When a well is drilled through the confining layer into this aquifer, the water level in the well may be higher than the elevation of the top of the aquifer. When this occurs, the water can be labeled as artesian.

- *Fluoridated:* To be labeled as fluoridated, water must have fluoride added, as limited by the FDA. This type includes water labeled "for infants" or "nursery."

- *Groundwater.* This type of water comes from an aquifer where the water source is either equal to or greater than atmospheric pressure. Artesian water is a type of groundwater.

- *Mineral water.* This water is also a type of groundwater that is isolated and contains at least 250 parts per million of total dissolved solids. All minerals must be naturally occurring in this type of water.

- *Purified water.* Also called "demineralized water," this type of water receives treatment prior to bottling, such as distillation or reverse osmosis. Purified water must meet a definition provided in the United States Pharmacopeia.

- *Sparking water.* Sparkling contains carbon dioxide, but only in the amount present when taken from its source.

- *Spring water.* Spring water comes from the ground and flows naturally to the surface without any pumping.

- *Sterile water.* To be classified as sterile, water must pass tests required by the United States Pharmacopeia.

- *Well water.* This water comes from a hole, or well, in the ground.

Jarvie, M. (2011). Bottled water. In O. Ogunseitan, *Green health: An A-to-Z guide*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. Retrieved from Credo Reference

In ENGL 102, we expand the Pre-Research process by including popular sources.

Using Credo, we transition students from the Pre-Research phase to higher level, scholarly sources.

The goal is to:

- Engage students with the process of information creation.

- Expose students to how keywords and scholarly language can be applied.

- Support the learning of skills and concepts in a single database before transferring those skills to a larger database or discovery service.

Scholarly Sources

Popular Sources

Foundational Knowledge
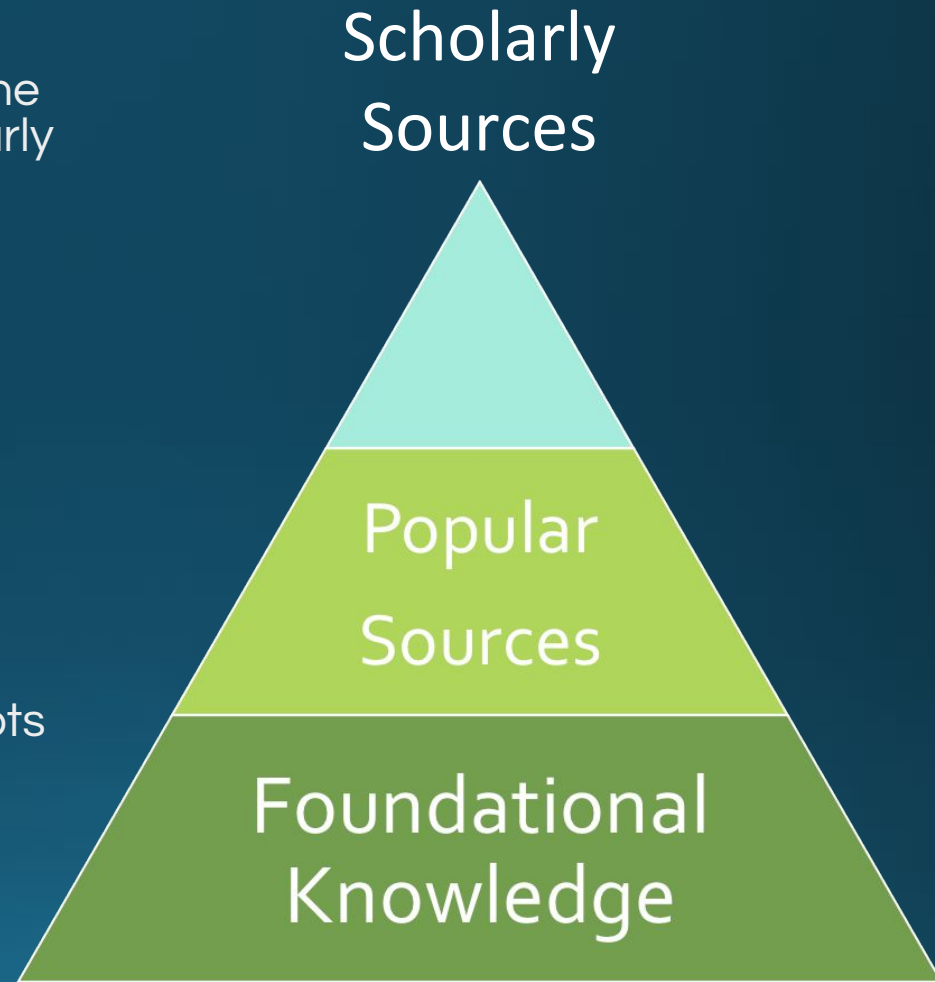
- **Searching as Strategic Exploration**
  - Concept Mapping, development of keywords, identification of different source types and their contribution to research

- **Scholarship as a Conversation**
  - Recognizing that they are contributing to scholarship through their own assignments, citing sources

- **Research as Inquiry**
  - Concept Mapping, understanding assignment requirements, focusing their topic and research questions, gathering multiple source types

- **Information Creation as a Process**
  - Recognizing and understanding the contributions and value of various source types, transfer of research skills and concepts, understanding assignment requirements.

Links & Resources

Natalie Bishop – nebishop@gardner-webb.edu;   @npebishop

Laurie Baumgardner – lbaumgardner@gardner-webb.edu

UNIV 111 LibGuide – **http://gardner-webb.libguides.com/content.php?pid=601409**

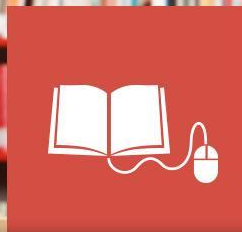ENGL 102 LibGuide – **http://gardner-webb.libguides.com/engl102adams**

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Bridge the gap image. (2013). Retrieved from http://www.intervieweerassistant.com/index.php/blog/entry/with-interview-scheduling-less-is-more.html
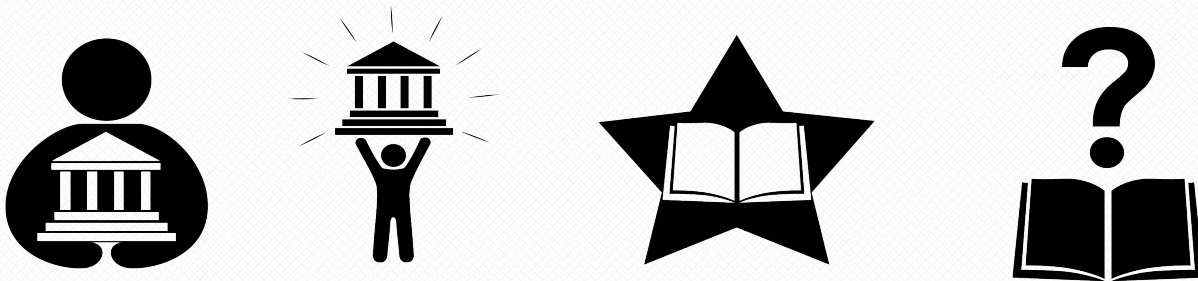
Jarvie, M. (2011). Bottled water. In O. Ogunseitan, *Green Health: An A-to-Z guide*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. Retrieved from Credo Reference

Questions?

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Credo

- Support students' exploratory search and pre-research
- Promote discovery and usage of library resources
- Simplify reference collection development

Thank you!

learnmore@credoreference.com

Join the conversation:
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