

Ideatools Courseware Fosters Librarian-Faculty Collaboration  
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Simon Ting (Instructional Designer and developer of IdeaTools) , Pamela Conley (LA Support English faculty) and Joan Naturale (NTID Reference Librarian) have been working on a project partly to meet the problem of information overload challenges facing the community. We came up with a plan to integrate library resources within Ideatools web courses to facilitate easier access to information for both faculty and students. Information literacy skills are becoming more complex as we shift from print to electronic resources and students need more time and practice learning about the various resources.

Pamela Conley teaches writing and literature classes and assigns research papers. She contacts me to teach course specific library resources where we team-teach in the “Bib Lab” at the library. We found that teaching information literacy skills is most effective when library resources are integrated within the web course for specific assignments. Simon Ting created an “Ask Joan” application in the form of a Web page making it easy for instructors to upload to their web courses. The “Ask Joan” page includes links to Human Click, an instant messaging program, captioned and signed videos, recommended databases, bibliographies, e-books, articles, sample papers, e-reserves, guides, MLA citation information and websites. We also included instructions for uploading papers for the “Turn It In” plagiarism detection service.

As a result, we found this model of integrating library resources within the web course expands students’ knowledge of library resources. This model promotes online and personal interaction, addresses pacing needs, independence and self-reliance, provides visual support for communication and language diversities found in the community, and convenience to 24/7 access for overview and review of material.

Some of these library resources such as the “Ask Joan” can be uploaded easily into your web courses. You can choose from an array of library resources and upload them into your own web course in a matter of seconds. If you are interested in other library resources not listed, arrange a meeting with Joan to customize what you need. The “Ask Joan” library link can be found via <http://idea3.rit.edu/jxnwml/libres/index.asp>. You can also post e book chapters or database articles easily using persistent or durable links <http://wally.rit.edu/electronic/linkdbases.html>.

For more information about IdeaTools, contact Simon Ting ([sktnmp@rit.edu](mailto:sktnmp@rit.edu)); and for more information about how to integrate library resources within IdeaTools webcourses, contact Pamela Conley ([prcnege@rit.edu](mailto:prcnege@rit.edu)) or Joan Naturale ([jxnwml@rit.edu](mailto:jxnwml@rit.edu)).