ASSIGNMENTS THAT WORK
A WORKSHOP SERIES

Demographic and Statistical Data: Using Social Explorer in the Classroom
10am – noon Wednesday March 7, 2007   Brooklyn College Library, room 120

This workshop will focus on the use of Social Explorer an interactive Web application that uses maps to allow users to compare demographic information based on selected criteria. Faculty will explore how to use Social Explorer to teach students how to visually analyze and understand the demography of any part of the United States through interactive thematic maps of historical census data, customized reports for any chosen area or areas (including aggregates), complete coverage of the United States, down to neighborhoods and streets.

Andrew Beveridge, Professor of Sociology at Queens College, CUNY and Josh Radinsky, Professor of Education and Learning Sciences at the U. Illinois Chicago's College of Education – Dr. Beveridge writes and publishes extensively on social demographic research, urban and neighborhood change, school test score patterns, and more. He is the creator of Social Explorer and an expert in using GIS techniques to integrate demographic materials. Dr. Radinsky is an educational researcher and specializing in teaching and learning with geographic data.

Beyond Plagiarism-Proofing: Designing Research Assignments for Student Engagement

Instructors' best response to concerns about plagiarism is to teach students how to do their own writing and to design assignments that students want to do. This workshop will explore principles of assignment design that produce not just plagiarism-proof assignments but intellectually rich exercises in which students have a sense of investment and engagement.

Rebecca Moore Howard, Associate Professor of Writing & Rhetoric, Syracuse University. – Dr. Howard has written & presented extensively on writing across the curriculum, representations of and responses to plagiarism, composition & cultural rhetoric, & more.
Research Skills for Scientists  
10am-noon. April 18, 2007. Brooklyn College Library Multipurpose Room, 4th floor

This workshop will explore ways in which research using scientific databases provides students with critical skills in how to collect, analyze, respond to, and manage life sciences and biomedical data, information and knowledge.

David Osterbur, Harvard Medical School, Countway Library. A Ph.D. in molecular biology and a librarian, Dr. Osterbur has teaches at many levels - undergraduate and graduate courses in molecular and developmental biology as well as one-on-one instruction in the use of many of the resources available in today's molecular biology research labs and libraries.

Creating Models for Problem Solving Using Analogical Reasoning Activities
10am-noon. April 25, 2007 Brooklyn College Library Multipurpose Room, 4th floor

In the words of Robert Sternberg: “We reason analogically whenever we make a decision about something new in our experience by drawing a parallel to something old in our experience.” Theorists since Sternberg have examined how analogical reasoning applies to learning, specifically, what mental processes individuals call upon when faced with solving new problems. In education, findings from research in this area have been used to create activities that assist students in learning new concepts. Two models that have proven effective as teaching tools are the conceptual model and the worked example. In this seminar, Dr. Anita Ondrusek will describe how these two models have been used to create activities for teaching college students in various subjects. She will also include a case study illustrating how she has incorporated activities based on both models in her research methods course taught to graduate students.

Anita Ondrusek, Associate Professor of Library and Information Science at Valdosta State University – Dr. Ondrusek is a librarian and holds a Ph.D. in Instructional Systems. She teaches Online Searching, Information Literacy, and more. Her research interests include Adult Learning Behavior, Online Searching Psychology, and Information Literacy.

For more information or to reserve a place, please contact: Mariana Regalado  
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