

Developing creative research skills: harnessing the power of practice

WHAT IS IT?

An online module designed to support information literacy (IL) skills for creatives at Falmouth University

WHERE DID THE IDEA COME FROM?

- recognising traditional IL skills don't fit for creatives
- developing an approach more holistic and connected to practice
- awareness that students have an appetite for research - they are passionate & curious about their practice
- academic staff are increasingly coming from industry practice - 'pragmatics' (Dickinson, Fowler and Griffiths, 2022)

WHY DEVELOP A MODULE?

- we were:
 - responding to the popularity of our live interactive session of the same name
 - cognisant of the expanding population of online students
 - wanting to reach more students, especially those who struggle to attend live sessions (due to different time zones, caring responsibilities, etc.)
 - developing ideas and providing access to more content
 - keen to create a learner-centred navigation and increased interactivity for a deeper learning experience

CHALLENGES

Navigation - avoiding the linear default and creating a learner-centred experience
Interactivity - creative application of options and tools

Limitality - being on the cusp of an idea

Embodied 'knowing' and translating this into keywords

Improving and finding connections

"Information Creativity" (Dahlquist, 2022)

Iterative and Flow



Beginnings



Research-research for creative practice



Maps...



Scratchily and occasionally following your research



How can research for creative practice help me?

WHAT ABOUT THE CONTENT AND DESIGN?

Access the module: <https://tinyurl.com/4t5d4k6>



How can research for creative practice help me?



Exploring research journey

Module creation platform

Articulate 360

Curiosity as a starting point for critical thinking

Information encountering - the power of awareness!

"Creative bridge" (Falmouth University, 2020)

CHALLENGES

Overcoming technical and hosting issues relating to server space and authentication barriers

Embracing discomfort and taking risks - recognising this is where creativity can thrive

WHAT WAS THE FEEDBACK?

- strongly positive feedback, with comments about:
 - enjoying interactive elements
 - finding it valuable to learn about the differences between the open web and library
 - recognising the creative spark

WHY IS THIS SO RELEVANT NOW?

Our information landscape is in flux:

- open access - open research
- decolonisation - diversity
- GenAI technologies...
- ...require us to reconsider it.

- Focus on the human element:
- exploring connections between seemingly unrelated information
 - following curiosity and interrogating what is found along the way
 - serendipity and how this can enhance the quality and value of research
 - celebrating diversity - voices, formats, search platforms etc.

WHERE ARE WE GOING NEXT?

- Develop:
- ideas around the relationship between creativity and research
 - curriculum-based instruction to emphasise concepts over skills
 - an IL framework for Falmouth, incorporating these principles
 - a tradition of those that transcend arts practices and highlights the value of a creative approach to research for all disciplines

by Rosie Enys & Anna Connell
Falmouth Fyler PL10
rosie.enys@fplhs.ac.uk
anna.connell@fplhs.ac.uk

"This was enjoyable and the formatting was refreshing..."

"This got me actively thinking and engaged."

"...it's fabulous!"

"Great learning activity"

"I liked the interactive parts... it got me thinking as opposed to just looking in information..."

"very useful and informative"

"I really enjoyed the course and found it invaluable, thank you"

"I have since found myself acknowledging my spark moments"

"Loved the interactive aspect..."