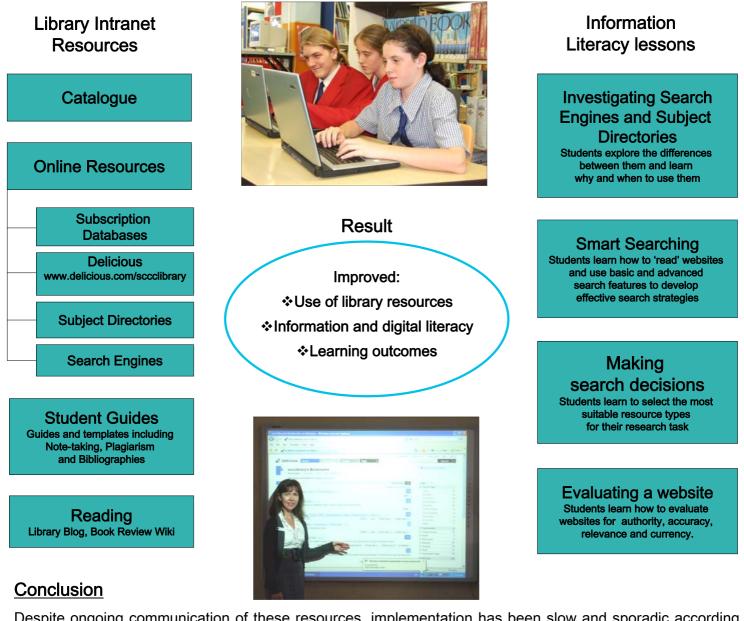# Beyond Google: improving learning outcomes through digital literacy

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Rationale

The Internet is often students' first choice when researching school assignments, however students' online search strategies typically consist of a basic Google search and Wikipedia. The creation of library intranet pages providing a range of search tools and the teaching of customised information literacy lessons aim to better utilise library resources and improve students' research skills and learning outcomes.

Library Intranet Resources

Catalogue

Online Resources

Subscription Databases

Delicious
www.delicious.com/sccclibrary

Subject Directories

Search Engines

Student Guides
Guides and templates including Note-taking, Plagiarism and Bibliographies

Reading
Library Blog, Book Review Wiki

Result

Improved:
❖Use of library resources
❖Information and digital literacy
❖Learning outcomes

Information Literacy lessons

Investigating Search Engines and Subject Directories
Students explore the differences between them and learn why and when to use them

Smart Searching
Students learn how to 'read' websites and use basic and advanced search features to develop effective search strategies

Making search decisions
Students learn to select the most suitable resource types for their research task

Evaluating a website
Students learn how to evaluate websites for authority, accuracy, relevance and currency.

Conclusion

Despite ongoing communication of these resources, implementation has been slow and sporadic according to the willingness of teachers to involve the teacher librarian in collaborative planning and teaching. Use of subscription databases has increased by an average of 7880% since information literacy lessons have begun.

Feedback gained about students' knowledge and skills over the last twelve months will be used to design a whole school Information Literacy and ICT Skills Continuum. Once students become accustomed to using the library intranet as a starting point for their research and develop the skills they need to use those resources effectively, the library will have made a greater contribution toward the achievement of learning outcomes.