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Reflection 3.1

**3.1 Efficient and ethical information-seeking behavior**

Candidates identify and provide support for diverse student information needs. Candidates model multiple strategies for students, other teachers, and administrators to locate, evaluate, and ethically use information for specific purposes. Candidates collaborate with students, other teachers, and administrators to efficiently access, interpret, and communicate information.

**Artifacts**

1. [ISTC 789 Science Fair Lessons](../Internships/Glenwood%20Middle/Science%20Fair%20Collaboration.docx) and [Science Fair Portal Page](https://gmsmedia.wikispaces.hcpss.org/Science+Fair+Resources)

2. [ISTC 601 Virtual Learning Commons](http://hopeelementaryschoollibrary.weebly.com/)

3. [ISTC 651 Evaluation of Electronic Resources](../../Fall%202013/ISTC%20651/ISTC651_Evaluation%20of%20Electronic%20Resoruces.doc)

**Relevance**

With all of the technology resources that are available, students, teachers, administrators, and even parents, need be aware of how to use the information efficiently and ethically. The school library media specialist has a perfect opportunity to introduce the school community to these amazing tools to access information, but they also need to instruct them on how to do it properly. My artifacts show how important I believe this role to be, and how I will continue to provide strategies to the community achieve this goal.

My science fair portal page is a perfect example of how I explained the importance of accessing information proficiently and professionally. I designed my portal page to provide students with easy access to online databases and scholarly search engines, to use for their science fair research. Not only to did I teach them the importance of using online databases, but I provided in-class instruction, as well as corresponding screencasts, to model how to use the features of the databases effectively. Additionally, I instructed students about how to evaluate sources that are not from online databases, by using the CRAAP test, so they could expand their searches. This series of lessons, as well as my portal page, were very successful in teaching students about using reliable sources and how to access them on the internet. Some students had not used online databases before, and were not sure why they were important to use, but after my lessons, they were able to tell me why they should use them and how they could use them to find research. Based on the post-assessment from my CRAAP test lesson, the majority of students were able to find their own reliable sources from the search engines, by evaluating their websites independently, too. This is practical information to learn about, because they will have use the internet forever, whether it is for personal or work use, they will have to be able to know how to find information and then evaluate it for credibility. My portal page provides them with steps on how to do this task, and archives the information so they can go back and refer to it at any time. Therefore, I will create portal pages similar to this one in my future, and adapt it to my students and their curriculum, to ensure that they learn this vital and lifelong skill.

In my ISTC 601 coursework, I worked with other graduate students to construct a mock library virtual learning commons. Essentially, this is a place where the entire school community can go to learn about the library, the services they offer, where to find information and how to access it, as well as other helpful information for using technology ethically in today’s society. We made sure to include an OPAC, which provides students and teachers with print and digital resources, home pages for students, teachers, and parents, providing them with information they need, a knowledge building center, where students can communicate with each other online in a professional environment, and more. Another important part of the virtual learning commons is the experimental learning center, which includes links to information about web etiquette and web safety, which parents, teachers, and students can access and learn about, in order to become ethical digital citizens in online learning communities. This artifact is a great resource for me to use in my future library. I would use the organization and resources, from this mock learning commons, and transform it into my school’s virtual learning commons. I want a place that students, teachers, and parents can access easily, and that will provide them with all of the information they need to use information ethically and efficiently. I want to have professional learning networks for teachers and students, so that they communicate with each other online about upcoming assignments, new technology tools, and more, to propel them into this social media driven society and be able to communicate with each other in an ethical and professional way. I will definitely create a virtual learning commons like this one, when I become a school library media specialist.

There are a myriad of electronic resources available online today. Therefore, as a media specialist, I need to be able to filter out the best and most useful ones for my students and teachers, in order for them to access information. In my coursework, I was able to evaluate six resources, to determine their credibility and reliability. Some of these resources included World Book Kids, ProQuest, Google Maps, and more. In order to teach my students and teachers on how to effectively evaluate sources, I have to be an expert it at it myself, and this assignment allowed me to do that. I learned about a multitude of resources and what made them reliable to use in the classroom. I would use this knowledge in my future, in order to share the resources that I thought were crucial to use to access information, as well as a starting point, to help students and teachers learn how to evaluate electronic resources independently too. For example, I could have students explore other electronic resources, and use the criteria that I used, to help them find credible sources to access and locate the information they need. It is so important for them to know how to access and assess these resources independently, so that they can use this skill in their futures’ with ease and success.