



# Assumptions in teaching Information Literacy

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What are the assumptions in teaching? About students and Information Literacy? The dangers, pitfalls and good practices?

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# What is an assumption?

- Something that you accept as true without question or proof (Cambridge dictionary)
- Asumare, presupunere
- Предположение, допущение





# Assumption vs presumption

- Presumption = Prezumție
- Assumption: “suppose to be the case, without proof.”
- Presumption: “suppose that something is the case on the basis of probability.”





# Assumptions are linked to prejudice

**Well known professor**



**Unknown new student**





# Assumptions can be true or false





# True assumptions

- Still assumptions;
- Not based on facts or research
- «Intuition»





«Your assumptions are your windows of the world.  
Scrub them off every once in a while, or the light won't  
come in»  
*Isaac Asimov*







- We will talk about assumptions about
- Students
- Teaching
- Learning
- The library's role





# How do we find our assumptions?

Assumptions are hidden from ourselves. They need to be uncovered. We can do this by

- Sizing up
- Shifting perspective
- Contrafactual thinking (what if not?)
- Contradictions
- Speculating





# Assumptions about students 1

- Students are motivated
- All students are similar
- Students today are like us when we were students





# Assumptions about students 2

- If we cover all, students will learn it
- Students are not paying attention





# What are your assumptions?

- Care sunt presupunerile dumneavoastră despre studenți?
- Discuss this with your neighbour for two minutes, and then share with all.





# False assumptions are dangerous

How can we sort the false assumptions from the truth?

- Asking students
- Literature
- Discussing with colleagues





# Assumptions about teaching

- Teaching is easy
- Teaching is difficult
- Teaching is a gift
- Librarians can not teach





# What are your assumptions?

- Care sunt presupunerile dumneavoastră despre predarea?
- Discuss this with your neighbour for two minutes, and then share with all.







# Assumptions can be misleading

- There is much research and theory on pedagogy
- Many universities have uni-ped departments
- Training and practice is needed





# Assumptions about learning 1

- We all learn the same way, same speed, same rate
- Students learn like we, teachers, do





# Assumptions about learning 2

- People remember what they learn
- Students know and understand what we expect in an exercise/assignment





# What are your assumptions?

- Care sunt presupunerile dumneavoastră despre învățare?
- Discuss this with your neighbour for two minutes, and then share with all.





# Research on learning styles exist!



Assumptions about learning can be checked against facts in pedagogical research like assumptions about teaching.





# Assumptions about the library's role 1

- The library knows the best for students
- We speak the same language
- Staying fresh and updated is easy





## Assumptions about the library's role 2

- IL theory is of interest to others
- The academic staff is eager to collaborate with the library/librarians
- We have something of value for students





# What are your assumptions?

- Care sunt presupunerile dumneavoastră despre rolul bibliotecii?
- Discuss this with your neighbour for two minutes, and then share with all.







## Libraries are great places for students

We have to work with the academics to make sure the students learn information literacy in a timely and efficient manner





# How to deal with assumptions?

- How do we «scrub them off» as Asimov advised?
- Why is this necessary?





- Assumption is the mother of all fuck-ups.
- (From the movie «Under siege 2: Dark territory» with Steven Seagal 1995)







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