A critical information literacy toolkit for Sustainability

Julia Flood, Academic Support Librarian at Central Saint Martins

Overview – three stages of this project

- Series of workshops around introducing sustainable research through a critical information literacy framework

- Reflection on this process

- Production of a critical information literacy toolkit for other librarians. This is the latter stage of the project and will partly fall after the PGCert deadline.

Rationale for project (the problem)

Library: Sustainability Community of Practice

- Tackles sustainable practice in the library spaces

- Hasn't yet embarked on the library's teaching provision and information literacy

UAL Museums and Galleries: Climate Emergency Working Group

- Collections focused (future collections strategies; any collecting at all?)

- Collecting student work

- Tackling knowledge around sustainability early on

- Inclusive and understanding of why people can't make sustainable choices.

Pedagogical theory and research (the solution)

- Make sustainability part of framework of critical information literacy activities in the Library

- Making activism part of learning. i.e. challenging positionality in relation to information; removing homogeneous rhetoric around Climate Change. Burns; Kolb; Appleton

- Co-learning

- Co-creating (searching, finding and sharing information)

- Taking this back to SusCop – libraries are hierarchical places!

Workshops (active research)

To review the literature surrounding information literacy and teaching methodologies relating to information literacy in the arts, and criticality with a focus on sustainability (in HE; an arts context is an advantage).

I will base workshops on:

- searching databases that offer information on sustainable materials
- the extent of greenwashing in information resources (i.e. understanding the connection between the UN's social, economic and ecological pillars)
- the legacy of Climate Change in the literature. How are inequalities ignored or acknowledged.
- the appropriation of marketable sustainable alternatives from other people and cultures.
- How searching diverse information sources can offer different perspectives.

This will be a starting point only, discussions and feedback will shape the conversation and offer...

Workshops

↓

- activities
- discussion

↓

Reflection

(data, individual thoughts, discussion with colleagues, tutorial groups)

↓

Toolkit
Possible Collaborative work?