

Should Feminist Pedagogy be Information Literate?

CWSA/ACEF, May 30, 2010

<http://tiny.cc/bke2f>

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Context is everything

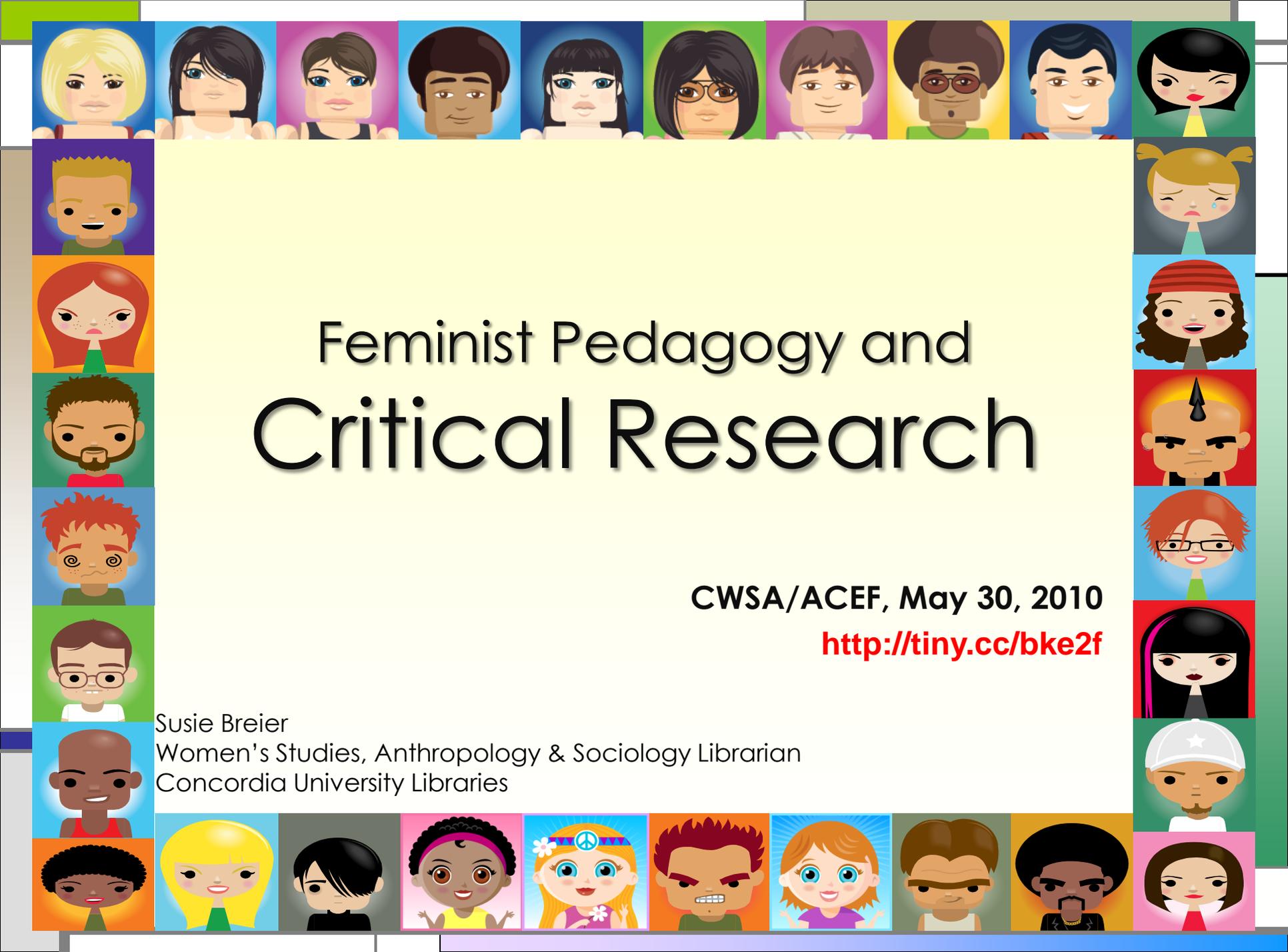
- Based on a workshop dealing with information literacy and research assignments in Women's Studies.
- Plug for reference and subject librarians

What is Information Literacy?

Information literacy involves **finding and evaluating the kinds of materials and information required to research a subject in the context of a discipline** as well as **using and synthesizing the information** to accomplish assigned and creative tasks, add to knowledge, and **participate in the discourse of that discipline**.

*Information Literacy Standards for Anthropology and Sociology Students, ALA /ACRL /ANSS
Instruction and Information Literacy Committee Task Force on IL Standards, Jan 15, 2008*

Critical Research



Feminist Pedagogy and Critical Research

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Interactions & Conversations with Feminist Pedagogy

Encouraging critical research is about:

- Helping students become critical agents vs. passive consumers of information
- Exploding the myth of information's neutrality
- **Bridging the gap between experts and novices**
- **Making assumptions and expectations explicit**

Incoming undergrads

Less than 40% can identify a bibliographic citation to a journal article

Less than 26% recognize all the characteristics of a scholarly journal

Less than 32% can identify the correct criteria for evaluating Web sites

Less than 53% can successfully identify all instances that require a citation

Based on three successive studies of incoming undergraduates in Quebec, British Columbia and Belgium between 2000 and 2007.

“University Students Today”

**Consider research – even online –
« barely a tolerable task »**

**Are confused by what
college-level
research entails**

**Can't figure out their
professors' expectations for
*QUALITY RESEARCH***

Encouraging Critical Research:

implicit, assumed or explicit?

quality reseach

academic sources

scholarly journals

Internet

encyclopedias

perspectives: feminist, antiracist, intersectional

research topic

Encouraging Critical Research: practical strategies

Research process journal, essay, paragraph

Preparatory assignments:

annotated bibliography, compare/contrast sources, critical analysis

Quick student questionnaire

Library research workshops

Critical research/politics of information courses

Reference & Subject Librarians

- Help with research assignments
- Needs assessment & tailored instruction
- One-on-one assistance for students and faculty



Appendices:

Extra slides there was no time to show

Faculty (research experts)

- ❑ years of acculturation to research process
- ❑ familiar with experts in a field
- ❑ don't rely on libraries or librarians

Undergrad (research novices)

- ❑ no prior experience or formative period
- ❑ no scholarly network or notion of experts in a field
- ❑ little notion of dimensions of issues
- ❑ are often not aware of librarians



PHP code:
http://www.flickr.com/photos/bull3f/32721489_9/

What is “quality code”?

What is “quality research”?



Questioning by Ann Douglas
Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/anndouglas/422362185/>

What is a call number?



Reservedly Happy by [JenWaller](#)

Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/jenwaller/2207918246/>



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The Research Process

TO-DO

- Read and "judge".
- Organize "oral" history thing.
- Find a real end to the "conclusion".
- Continue "fixing" the references.
- Make the "bibliography".

Over-the-top scare quotes by [quinn.anya](http://www.flickr.com/photos/quinnanya/2348918562/)
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/quinnanya/2348918562/>

Bibliography

My own mind was my source
due to experience.

bibliography by [papertrix](http://www.flickr.com/photos/papertrix/38028138/)
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/papertrix/38028138/>

Context is everything: first ever help desk

