Embedded in online learning
VRM 811

Research Methodology

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Embedded Librarianship Seminar
31 October 2012
Purpose of VRM 811

To equip candidates with the ability to:
1. Professionally plan and undertake a research project
2. Collect and analyse data
3. Apply a scientific style of writing in the presentation of research
4. Prepare effective oral presentations
5. Write successful grant applications
VRM 811 before 2005

- Prof Boomker / Penzhorn module co-ordinators
- Post Graduate Students
- Compulsory module
- Library training
- Students just listen
- No hands-on experience
Wow! That was a great lecture!

I'm so confused.

GREAT MOMENTS IN TEACHING

2008©
VRM 811 before 2005

- In 2002 a new Computer Laboratory was created.
VRM 811 before 2005

2003 & 2004 computer lab available - much better
2005 ClickUP!

- In 2004 for starting in 2005
- Visit from Prof Boomker
- Erica and I compiled a study component for the library
  - **Purpose**
  - **Learning outcomes and assessment criteria**
  - **Activities**
  - **Learning resources**

- VRM 811 – 7 Outcomes and 8 Assignments
VRM 811: 2005 -

- Outcome 1: "On being a scientist"
- Outcome 2: Retrieve and manage information
- Outcome 3: Experimental design
- Outcome 4: Scientific writing
- Outcome 5: The research protocol
- Outcome 6: Oral and poster presentations
- Outcome 7: Grantsmanship
VRM 811: 2005 -

8 Assignments

Assignment #1

Submit a brief outline (not more than one page) of the envisaged research. This should include a brief statement on the methods to be employed. Mention the name of your supervisor. (Note: this assignment is compulsory, but will not be graded. IF YOU DO NOT SUBMIT THIS OUTLINE BY THE SPECIFIED DEADLINE, YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE WITH THE MODULE.)
Assignment #2

Study the case reports in "On being a scientist.pdf".

- Discussion 2.1 and 2.2 Study the case reports in "On being a scientist". Take part in the two online discussion sessions as scheduled in the Course Schedule.
Assignment #3:

- Study the PowerPoints on how to use CAB Abstracts, Medline, Zoological Record, Wildlife & Ecology Studies Worldwide and Refworks.
  - Task 3.1 – Do a literature search on the above mentioned databases. Select some references and export it to Refworks but also mail it to me
  - Task 3.2 – Create a lists of the references exported to Refworks
  - Task 3.3 Use the provided paragraph and insert about 7-10 citations from your Refworks folder. Create a bibliography at the end of the paragraph
  - Task 3.4 Visit the UPeTD website and list 2 theses / dissertations done in the VTD dept.
Assignment #4

- Study the two sets of course notes provided, the two published papers and submit the answers to the set of questions supplied.
Assignment #5

A reference list will be provided. The list has to be redrafted in the format stipulated by three other scientific journals:

- Journal of the South African Veterinary Association
- Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Research
- Veterinary Parasitology.
• **Assignment #6**
• Prepare a protocol for your proposed research, according to the specified format.
  ◦ Written assignment 6.1 (Stage gate 1): Submit a first draft of the protocol.
  ◦ Written assignment 6.2 (Stage gate 2): Submit the final version of the protocol.
  ◦ Format of the protocol: Is supplied in study guide
• Assignment #7
• Prepare a PowerPoint presentation of your protocol, as it would be presented for discussion in an open forum. The presentation must not exceed 4MB in size.
Assignment #8

- Visit the website of the International Foundation for Science (www.ifss.se). Scroll down to “Apply for a research grant”. Click on “How to apply” and study the requirements.
- Download the application form to your computer. Fill in the application form – make sure that you provide all the detail required. DO NOT SUBMIT THE APPLICATION FORM TO IFS!
- Upload the completed application form
- Submit a list of ten requirements for a successful grant application.
Allocation of marks

- Discussion 2: 10%
- Library assignment 3: 10%
- Written assignment 4.1: 10%
- Written assignment 5.1: 10%
- Written assignment 6.2: 10%
- Written assignment 8.1: 10%
- PowerPoint presentation 7.1: 40%
Teething problems

- Students had to register manually with the library
- Slow Internet access
- No electricity
- Computer literacy
- Language barriers
Solutions

- Automatic registration with the library
- Provide students with a CD
- Computer literacy is a prerequisite
Lecturers involved in 2012

- Dr Henriette van Heerden Module co-ordinator
- Dr D Knobel
- Ms Antoinette Lourens
- Dr Darshana Morar
- Prof Marinda C Oosthuizen
- Prof Banie L Penzhorn
- Dr Melvyn Quan
- Dr Kgomotso Sibeko
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