In the Spring 2016 semester, 668 students completed the flipped databases, it begins with a more conceptual section on information introduces typical library instruction topics like keywords and searching library for their in person instructional session. Though the module information literacy portion of the ENGL 120 curriculum has been to the “Information Creation as a Process” frame.

In meeting with the core writing faculty, we discovered that they were already familiar with threshold concepts theory and were enthusiastic about librarians attempting a more conceptual approach centered around the information literacy threshold concept of “format” or what they would call “genre”. This threshold concept roughly correlates to the “Information Creation as a Process” frame.

Methodology
Our first effort at incorporating a more conceptual approach into the information literacy portion of the ENGL 120 curriculum has been to design a flipped module that students complete before coming to the library for their in person instructional session. Though the module introduces typical library instruction topics like keywords and searching databases, it begins with a more conceptual section on information formats. The information formats section consists of three parts:

• Brief reflective activity asking students to consider the difference between books and journal articles.
• Video presentation on information formats (approx. 20 mins)
• Repeat of reflective activity
• Knowledge-check quiz (5 questions)

In the Spring 2016 semester, 668 students completed the flipped tutorial. The data set consists of student responses to the Information Formats/Geneva section of the tutorial.

Example Student Responses

Before Two of the formats you often use in your research are books and journal articles. Think for a moment about the difference between books and journal articles. Is there a few sentences, explain what is different about the information you find in each of these formats?

After Think again about the different formats in which information is published. How would you explain the difference between books and journal articles now?

Information Formats...
very quickly the information you find...
the journal is academically experimental.

Publication process & currency: Books take more time to publish and therefore cover less timely topics. Journal articles can be published more quickly and are often about more current topics. Peer review was also mentioned.

Authors and Authority: Books have one author, journal articles have many. A few students mentioned active authors, such as authors gathering information or authors as researchers. Books can be written by anyone, journal articles are written by scholars or professionals. 

Books and Journal Articles are different... Journals can get to you.

Student perceptions of format: What’s the difference between a book and a journal article?

Lori Townsend, Learning Services Coordinator, University Libraries
ENGL 120 Core Writing Faculty

Student Learning Objectives
• Students will understand that format exists and will use this understanding when evaluating sources for use as evidence in writing for ENGL 120.
• Students will understand that formats serve a purpose and will use this understanding to choose appropriate sources to support their arguments in ENGL 120 writing.

Data Analysis
In addition to the word clouds generated using all 668 student responses, 100 responses to the Before reflective question were coded for content. The goal was to understand how students are currently thinking about format before library instruction, in the context of books and journal articles. The following themes emerged:

- Length: Books are longer than journal articles. Books contain more information (in-depth, detailed, etc.). Journal articles are briefer (concise, to the point).
- Topic: Books cover more than one topic or general topics. Journal articles focus on one topic. The topics in books can be anything, although narrow was mentioned often. Journal articles are about one thing or are specific (some mentioned research).

Publication process & currency: Books take more time to publish and therefore cover less timely topics. Journal articles can be published more quickly and are often about more current topics. Peer review was also mentioned.

Authors and Authority: Books have one author, journal articles have many. A few students mentioned active authors, such as authors gathering information or authors as researchers. Books can be written by anyone, journal articles are written by scholars or professionals.

Books vs Journal Articles Reflective Questions Activity
All student responses to the reflective question (minus stop words) were used to build word clouds. The different clouds represent student responses before and after watching the information formats presentation.

Knowledge Check Quiz Results
Results from two questions below show some basic misunderstandings remain for a significant minority of students.

In a few sentences, explain what is different about the information you find in each of those formats?

0 125 250 500

375

500

125

250

500

0 115 350 600

Information formats...

0 115 350 600

a popular magazine

a scholarly book

on academic journals

on newspaper articles