

Illinois Immersion '07

I attended the Teacher Track of the Regional Information Literacy Institute of ACRL's Institute for Information Literacy at Illinois State University July 13 – July 18, 2007 (also known as Illinois Immersion '07).

There is a Program Track and a Teacher Track at the Institute. The CARLI website describes the Teacher Track well. “This track focuses on individual development for those who are interested in enhancing, refreshing, or extending their individual instruction skills. Curriculum includes classroom techniques, learning theory, leadership, and assessment framed in the context of information literacy...”¹

Before attending, participants in the teacher track were required to read nine articles, read and prepare a synopsis of a tenth for participation in a “jigsaw activity” as well as prepare an “instructional scenario” for a situation to focus on during the session and then change it based on what was learned at the institute, reinforcing what was learned with listing the reasons why the changes were made.

All of the sessions were very helpful. Information literacy, instructional effectiveness, assessment, learning theories, learning styles, leadership and changing paradigms were part of the curriculum with practical application.

The sessions on instructional effectiveness and then the “hands on” of giving a practice five minute presentation for feedback by a cohort group and then giving a refined presentation incorporating the suggestions was very helpful.

Debra Gilchrist provided three sessions (one was optional) on learning outcomes, instructional design and criteria for assessment. The theory and then practice provided an exceptional experience. A cohort leader was available for private consultation on outcomes and criteria composed for the instructional scenario. The consultations added a very personal, practical, usable element to the assessment portion.

Each participant took *The Kolb Learning Style Inventory* as part of the session on learning styles.

The faculty included Deb Gilchrist, Randy Hensley, Mary MacDonald, Dane Ward and Beth Woodard. They were exceptional. In addition, Elizabeth Clarage and Lorna Engels of the CARLI Staff who were in charge of all things administrative were absolutely phenomenal. They provided a wonderful, fun atmosphere for the institute as well as handling all the details to provide a very smooth experience.

I personally believe that anyone who teaches should attend the Institute for Information Literacy. The experience is foundational in both theory and practice.

Thank you, LIBRAS, for providing funding for this foundational experience!

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¹ <http://www.carli.illinois.edu/immersion07.html> accessed 7/21/2007