13eg Gynhadledd Dysgu ac Addysgu Flynyddol

13th Annual Learning and Teaching Conference

8-10 Gorffennaf 2025 | 8-10 July 2025

“But I couldn't find any sources…" Integrating hands-on Information and Digital skills into large group UG teaching

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Hanes a Hanes Cymru / Gwasanaethau Llyfrgell a Dysgu | History and Welsh History / Library and Learning Services

Introduction to History is a core first-year module designed to equip students with essential skills for historical study and research. A fundamental component is information literacy (IL)and library skills training.

The module convenor changes annually, and the large class size (approximately 80-100 students) combined with a packed lecture programme has made it challenging to create practical IL activities that promote meaningful engagement with these skills.

In previous years, the subject librarian has delivered this session through a half-hour lecture-style presentation, which, again, was not the best format for introducing practical skills.

In contrast, the smaller class size of the Welsh medium version of the module (Cyflwyno Hanes) allowed space for practical workshops on finding and evaluating scholarly sources.

Inspired by the work done in Cyflwyno Hanes, this paper will describe the collaboration between the module convenor and the librarian to develop a blended learning package, practical workshop, and formative assessment for the English language version of the module. These efforts aim to better equip students with foundational skills in using library collections. The paper will include a practical activity to test attendees' information retrieval skills.

The revamped session aims to redefine how history students engage with their Subject Librarian. Instead of seeking assistance only when encountering obstacles, students are encouraged to proactively seek advice from librarians as an integral part of their historical research and to understand developing such relationships as part of the work of a professional historian.

This change of approach has seen increased engagement with scholarly sources in the assessed work of the module, and an increased willingness for students to engage with librarian support.

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