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Information Literacy Activity: Researching Puja to Learn about Types of Sources

Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education Frame:

Authority is Constructed and Contextual

Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to distinguish between academic and popular publications in order to use those most appropriate for their assignment.

Students will be able to construct a simple keyword search statement in order to find relevant information.

Activity Description:

1. As a class, brainstorm the possible differences between Popular and Scholarly Sources using the categories:
   - Audience
   - Purpose
   - Author
   - References
   - Access
2. Show students how to distinguish between paper copies of popular and scholarly publications:
   - Pass around paper copies of journals, magazines and newspapers.
   - Ask students what they notice about the differences
3. Show students how to distinguish between online popular and scholarly publications, via the databases:
   - Use RaptorSearch to search for: Goddess Kali
   - Point out icons that distinguish types of sources
   - Demonstrate how to narrow their results for specific types of resources (Focusing Academic Journals, Magazines, News)
   - Demonstrate other ways to distinguish such as: publication title, document type, abstract, Volume and Issue details
4. Introduce students to their activity: *You are doing research for an informative speech on the Hindu religious practice of Puja. Use RaptorSearch to find one scholarly academic article and one popular article that you will use for your speech.*
5. Invite one or two students up to the teacher workstation to walk through how they found their articles.
6. Ask students to share why they chose the articles they did.
7. Follow up with a discussion on when scholarly academic resources or when popular resources are most useful.