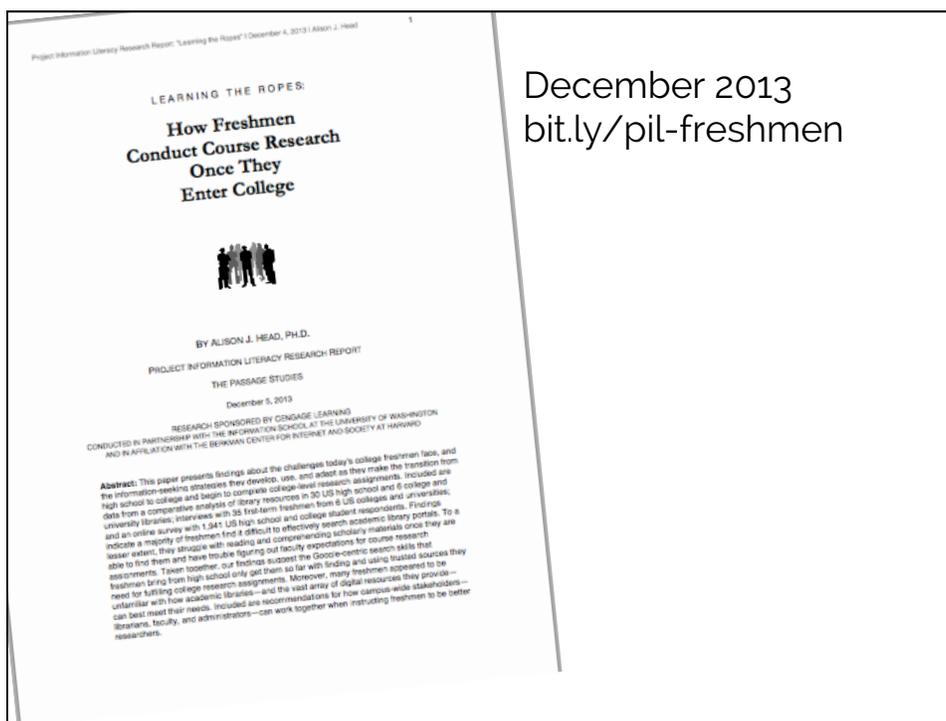


## Discussion: Exploring the Challenges of the Transition to College Research

A discussion with Kristin Fontichiaro and the Fort Bend ISD  
Secondary Librarians  
based on the work of Project Information Literacy  
Thurs., 8/14/2014

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**Figure 4: Which individual Research Tasks were Most Difficult for First-term Freshmen?**

Most Difficult Research Tasks	Count	Frequency
1. Coming up with keywords to narrow down searches on the academic library portal	26	74%
2. Filtering and sorting through irrelevant results from online searches	20	57%
3. Identifying/selecting potential sources and investigative methods from all available	18	51%
4. Integrating and summarizing writing styles from different sources/formats	15	43%
5. Delineating assignment parameters and defining and selecting a topic	13	37%
6. Reading and comprehending materials from different formats	12	34%
7. Locating print information from search results (i.e., articles, books, chapters)	8	23%
8. Asking for help with research from faculty, librarians, or fellow students	6	17%
9. Evaluating sources for credibility and bias while reconciling different viewpoints	5	14%
10. Citing sources and using citation formats, based on faculty preferences	3	9%
11. Self-assessment of research process used and the sources found	3	9%
12. Technological issues, includes connectivity and authenticating logins	3	9%
13. Managing and organizing results from print and online sources	2	6%
14. Developing new understandings in order to formulate an original thesis/proposition	2	6%

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Based on freshmen's self-reporting. Surprises? Confirmations? What does/doesn't

**Figure 7: Adaptive Strategies for College-Level Research**

New Information Competencies for College	
1.	Discovering peer-reviewed article abstracts and their usefulness.
2.	Using Google for finding keywords and checking authors' credibility.
3.	Replacing Google searches with Google Scholar searches.
4.	Following the "citation trail" to find related research sources.
5.	Using the college library as a refuge and source of professional help.

*Ordered from interviewees' most discussed to least discussed adaptive strategies; n = 35 first-term freshmen, 6 campuses*

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How can Fort Bend librarians help? What should FB administrators know? How