INFORMATION LITERACY PROGRAM  
 of Robert W. Sterling Sr. Memorial Library

**Studying with Multiple Sources**

Rita Cavaliere, Librarian [rcavaliere@nvit.bc.ca](mailto:rcavaliere@nvit.bc.ca) 250-378-3303

**The ability to find and evaluate resources for learning is a necessary skill for lifelong learning and effective work in many fields. Helping students find answers to questions on their own is also an effective strategy for learning.**

**Course information can be delivered through a variety of formats:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Lectures ( In person or online)** by teacher or guests | **Textbooks** | **Fictional story/novels** |
| **Interviews and biographies** eyewitness accounts  or commentaries | **Duplicates/hand-outs** of (text) chapters, magazine articles | **Original source material** as diaries, government documents, proceedings, minutes |
| **Electronic media** such as videos,  radio programs | **Internet** web site pages,  discussion groups |

**Using multiple sources allows you to understand a topic more deeply. It is important as the writer to synthesize through your sources. Synthesizing includes comparison and contrast, but also allows you to combine multiple perspectives on a topic to reach a deeper understanding**.

**Some Recommendations:**

* **Read your text**  
  to provide the factual framework from which to begin  
  (see also [Taking notes from a text book](http://www.studygs.net/booknote.htm) - <http://www.studygs.net/marking.htm>
* **Proceed to shorter, more focused sources**  
  of information especially if you are inexperienced in the subject
* **Practice with multiple texts** to improve your evaluative skills:
  + compare and contrast your sources
  + analyze them for bias or viewpoint
  + note when and where they were written, and how that affects the viewpoint
* **Understand the connections**  
  between events, actors, and circumstances rather than learn a series of "facts" which can be easily be forgotten
* **Use in-class or on-line discussion time**  
  to test your understanding and ask questions!
* **Strategy:** SQ3R reading method

**SQ3R is a reading strategy formed from its letters:**

**Survey! Question! Read! Recite! Review!**