Visual Literacy Standards in Higher Education: New Opportunities for Libraries and Student Learning

Visual Literacy Standards in Higher Education: New Opportunities for Libraries and Student Learning by Denise Hattwig, Kaila Bussert, Ann Medaille, and Joanna Burgess

Abstract:
Visual literacy is essential for 21st century learners. Across the higher education curriculum, students are being asked to use and produce images and visual media in their academic work, and they must be prepared to do so. The Association of College and Research Libraries has published the Visual Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education, which, for the first time, outline specific visual literacy learning outcomes. These Standards present new opportunities for libraries to expand their role in student learning through standards-based teaching and assessment, and to contribute to campus-wide collaborative efforts to develop students’ skills and critical thinking with regard to visual materials.