

**Information Literacy in Chemistry
or
Knowing how to find out if what you're
working with can kill you**

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Information literacy for Chemistry at Mount Royal University

Presentation at C3 1n 1991 detailed our early work - primarily in Chemistry 2201 and 0130, begun by Ross Sherwin, Phyllis Lake and Diana Garred

Have developed a program of course-integrated instruction units that gradually introduce more complex resources and strategies as students progress through Chemistry courses.

Benefits:

- Opportunity to reinforce prior learning, not repeat it
- Able to develop students' skills in step with information needs
- Ensures introduction to a variety of information resources, including higher level ones
- Students develop comfort level, self-efficacy in using information resources

We use a variety of teaching approaches including lecture/demonstration/activity and problem-based learning.

We use a variety of resources - print reference sources, electronic databases, books, websites, specialized science resources (Access Science) and chemical resources (CCINFO).

Our program is successful because of the excellent working relationship we have with instructors. - This has lead not only to better instrucion, but

also to a better library collection more closely tied to department instructional goals.

Now teaching between **80** and **90** chemistry classes a year in **7** different courses. (Feel free to steal/borrow/borrow/adapt any of these - let me know how it goes!)

- [CHEM 0115](#) - Basic Chemistry I - using the reserve collection, books, and other library resources to help with the course
- [CHEM 0130](#) - Basic Chemistry II - Presentations on chemicals - using Google effectively, using databases, books
- [CHEM 2201](#) - General Chemistry I - Poster sessions - Nobel-winning chemistry - Using Google, databases with more advanced concepts
- [CHEM 2203](#) - General Chemistry II - The Dead Chemist (Word) - using CRC Handbook, other print sources - chemical information lingo - CAS, LD50 etc
- [CHEM 3350](#) - Organic Chemistry I - Pharmaceutical Industry Chemical Processes
- [CHEM 3351](#) - Organic Chemistry II - Environmental Impact of Chemicals
- [CHEM 3357](#) - Industrial Organic Chemistry - capstone course - Major assignment is siting a chemical plant in Alberta (*We couldn't fit 3357 in this past year, but used the materials in 3351*)

For more information

- Visit the library site and check out worksheets
- <http://library.mtroyal.ca>
- Visit my site - <http://www2.mtroyal.ca/~mmacmillan>
- Email me - mmacmillan@mtroyal.ca