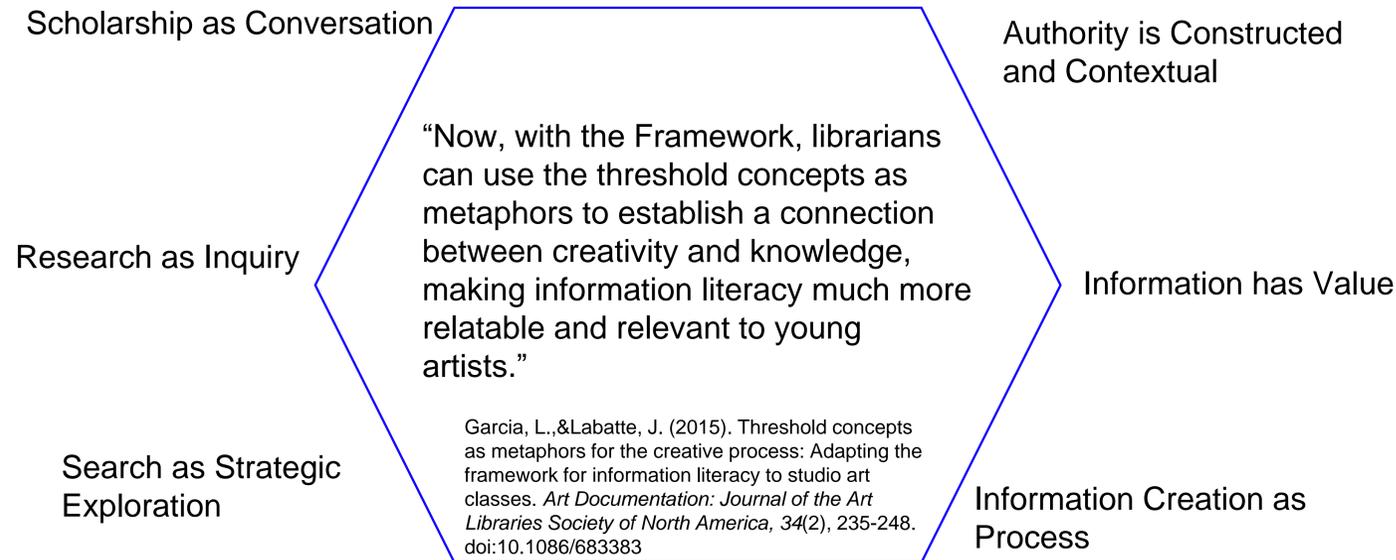


Research as a Method of Creative Production

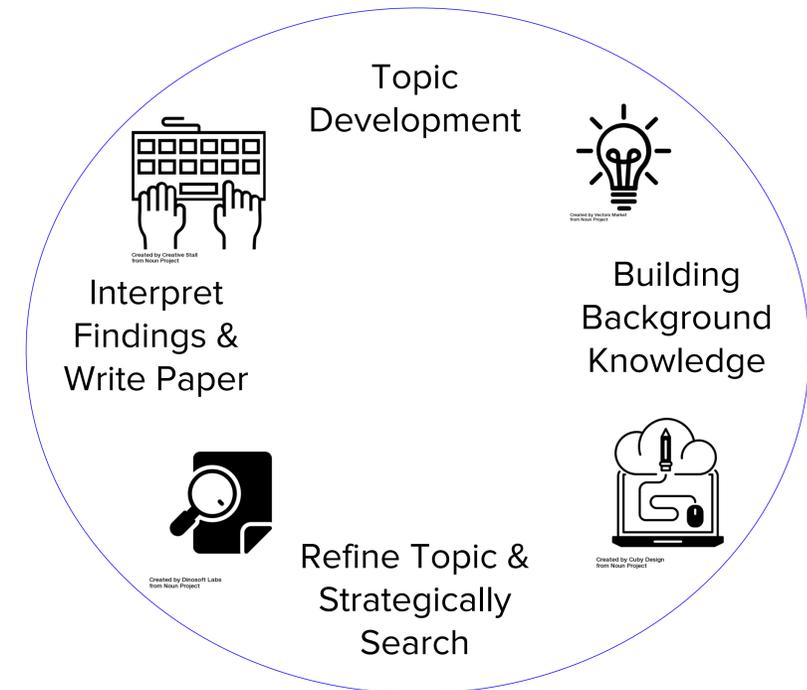
Weaving Information Literacy Into the Creative Writing Process

Kodi Saylor, Virginia Tech University Libraries

Framework for Information Literacy



Teaching Research for Research Papers



Creative Writers Conduct Research

“[W]riting about the Louisiana Native Guards in my last collection, *Native Guard*, I recount the history of an imagined soldier who is a probable human being. He could have existed. I used the research to imagine him and the historical setting he was in, the actual events of a particular historical moment.”

From “The Public Life of Poetry: An interview with Natasha Trethewey” Jennifer Change interviews Natasha Trethewey. (2013). Los Angeles Review of Books

In the quote above, Trethewey describes how she uses research in her writing. The excerpt from “Native Guard” is an example of how Trethewey utilizes research to shape the diction, tone, voice, and imagery of a particular poem. This example illustrates how important research can be to creative writers as they go about their craft.

Excerpt from “Native Guard”
from *Native Guard* (2007) by Natasha Trethewey

January 1863

O how history intersects—my own berth upon a ship called the *Northern Star* and I’m delivered into a new life, Fort Massachusetts: a great irony—both path and destination of freedom I’d not dared to travel. Here, now, I walk ankle-deep in sand, fly-bitten, nearly smothered by heat, and yet I can look out upon the Gulf and see the surf breaking, tossing the ships, the great gunboat bobbing on the water. And are we not the same, slaves in the hands of the master, destiny? —night sky red with promise of fortune, dawn pink as new flesh: healing, unfettered.

Teaching Research for Creative Production

