

A report on Starting School Program

Information Literacy: How to Reach Your Academic Goals in University

Date: 30th September 2015

Day: Wednesday

Time: 2.00 - 4.30 pm

Venue: DK, CTF2.

Graduate Employability & Alumni Unit, Faculty of Cognitive Sciences & Human Development (FCSHD), Universiti Malaysia Sarawak has organized a two hours talk on "Information Literacy: How to Reach Your Academic Goals in University" to all first year students in FCSHD. More than 400 students came for this talk. All of them were 1st year students which taking Human Resources and Development, Cognitive Sciences, and Counseling programs. This event is part of starting school initiatives to help first year student to excellent in their academic journey. This awareness activities is one of the structured starting school program implemented by Graduate Employability (GE) & Alumni Unit, FCSHD.

The event started with opening speech by Associate Prof. Dr Rusli Ahmad (Head of GE & Alumni Unit, FCSHD). In his speech, A.P. Dr Rusli Ahmad introduce the objective of GE & Alumni Unit to participants, emphasized the importance of Information Literacy as part of survival skills to survive in university. He also urged students to practice good academic writing starting from their first year as a university student. He also highlighted that it is crucial for them to be in charge for their own learning.

The event continued by Mdm Norazlina Abdul Rahman, who is a Senior Librarian, Center for Academic Information Services (CAIS). In her sharing session, there were 5 subtopics been covered which is Introduction to CAIS, CAIS One Search, Finding Information for Academic Writing, Finding Information on the Web, and also Citing References and Plagiarism. She also share common issues facing by students related to their incompetent to use and access information effectively. As described further in the definition of Information Literacy below.

Bahagian Teknologi Pendidikan (2002) stated that "*Literasi Maklumat adalah keupayaan untuk mengakses dan menilai maklumat bagi membuat pemilihan dan menyelesaikan masalah secara efektif*".

While, The Presidential Committee, American Library Association on Information Literacy defined information literacy as a set of skills, which require an individual to:

"recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information."

The event run smoothly and ended at 4.30pm after Q&A session. GE & Alumni Unit, FCSHD hoping that this talk would be a great starting point for students to prepare themselves in university lives.

Prepared by:

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GE & Alumni Unit, FCSHD. November 2015.

