

Simplifying the Process: Agricultural Literacy Publication Search Framework

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Introduction/Need for Innovation

Agricultural literacy research is important as a higher percentage of the United States population becomes further removed from the farm. This has caused many to become less aware of agricultural practices and information regarding food production (Wright, Stewart, & Birkenholz, 1994). Priority 1 of the *National Research Agenda of the American Association for Agricultural Education* encourages exploring the “impact of agricultural literacy efforts on a variety of stakeholder behaviors” (Doerfert, 2011, p. 8). The term agricultural literacy “can be defined as possessing knowledge and understanding of our food and fiber system” (Frick, Kahler, & Miller, 1991, p. 52). While this term has been in existence for several years, other terms have also been used to conduct similar lines of inquiry.

Although resources for educators are virtually limitless, the information overload is sometimes daunting and at times frustrating. Teachers often feel they do not have the time to research given topics effectively because they simply do not know how to begin to or where to search for information. In an effort to assist investigators (educators and scholars) in conducting agricultural literacy-related research and programming, a group of researchers created a list of relevant agricultural literacy publications.

How it Works/Methods/Steps

The research team brainstormed relevant agricultural literacy terms. The keywords included: agricultural literacy, food literacy, agrifood literacy, school gardens, natural resources literacy, STEM literacy, agricultural careers, animals and plants in the classroom, critical pedagogy in the classroom, food justice, EcoJustice or EcoPedagogy.

Given a list of agricultural literacy keywords, a graduate student conducted a literature search and created a table displaying 3-5 key publications under each keyword. After creating the table, the research team reviewed the list of publications and made suggested changes and additions. The framework provides a quick resources for educators and researchers to identify agricultural literacy relevant publications for future use. The goal of this work was to encourage more researchers and educators to implement agricultural literacy related research and educational efforts.

Results to Date/Implications

After conducting the initial publication search, using a total of eleven keywords, 42 publications were included in the table. This table gives the title, authors, and URL or publication information for each source. The table was placed on the Agricultural Literacy Wiki Page to assist educators and researchers in implementing agricultural literacy related projects. A modified version of the table is also on the Agricultural Literacy Wikipedia page. An example of publications included is provided in Table 1. The research team will utilize the articles found to continue their lines of inquiry.

Table 1			
Example of Agricultural Literacy Terminology and Relevant Publications			
Key Word	Article Title	Article Author(s)	URL/Publication Information
Agricultural Literacy	A definition and the concepts of agricultural literacy: a national study.	Martin Frick	http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=10365&context=rtd
Food Literacy	Defining food literacy and its components.	Helen Vigden, Danielle Gallegos	http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S019566631400018X
Agri-food Literacy	Elementary and middle school teacher ideas about the agri-food system...	Cary Trexler, Thomas Johnson, Kirk Heinze	http://bern.library.nenu.edu.cn/upload/soft/0-a/41-01-30.pdf
Natural Resources Literacy	Environmental and agricultural literacy education	D. Hubert, A. Frank, C. Igo	http://link.springer.com/article/10.1023/A:1005260816483
STEM Literacy	Learning for STEM literacy: STEM literacy for learning	Alan Zollman	http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1949-8594.2012.00101.x/full
Agricultural Careers	What a degree in agricultural leadership really means.....	Lori Moore, Summer Odom, Kari Moore	http://www.jae-online.org/attachments/article/1793/jae54.4.pdf
Food Justice	Food system literacy	Widener, P., & Karides, M.	Food Culture & Society, 17(4), 665-687. doi: 10.2752/175174444X4400067-4610916

Future Plans/Advice to Others

Teachers and educators will be able to use this framework within their classrooms to help facilitate academic growth for not only themselves, but also their students. Researchers will be able to use the framework to get started in agricultural literacy research initiatives. The framework will also be useful in expanding how people conceptualize agricultural literacy. The table will continue to be updated as more articles are located and relevant research is published.

Costs/Resources Needed

There were no costs associated with this innovative idea. The graduate student gained valuable skills in conducting a literature search. The Wiki Page and the Wikipedia page are both free to use and update.

References

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