SDU

Lunch & Learn: Debate

A lot of students have challenges with the complexity of research articles. Indeed, the academic way of writing is about packing a lot of ideas in a highly structured format, where we have to think about every single word we write, because we are limited in length. The product that comes out of this process is normally a very difficult treat. However, as articles are a way of scholarly communication, there must be a way for us to teach our students to read and understand them.

Students have to go through a lot of articles to identify a few relevant ones that they should read from A to Z. This demands a change in students' reading habits – from how they read a fiction novel to how they select, which articles to pick out for a closer study. To do this, they need to know how to evaluate the content fast.

7 step guide to reading research articles

Elena Shulzhenko's 7 Step Guide to Reading Research Articles teach students to be flexible in terms of how thoroughly they read the articles, making it into a conscious process, considering after each step if it is necessary to move on to the next step or instead to the next article.

It is important to help the students develop a form of meta-reflection about what they are reading and how, because this is a part of academic competencies at a university level. When introducing this guide to the students, it would be a good idea to take the time to discuss its content with them using an article from the curriculum. This will help them to understand why each step is important to reflect upon when reading.

About the guide
Using the 7 step guide allows students to stop and consider what they have read before moving on to the next step. This exercise will teach them a method to evaluate their readings continuously and help them understand the value of each section in a research article.

To find and use the guide without this article IMM's Intranet: (link)

Questions to debate

What is you experience with the students' competences, when it comes to reading research articles?

Do you use research articles as part of your courses' reading list? Why/why not?

How to best balance readings between textbooks and articles depending on bachelor and candidate level? And when to introduce them?

About

Elena Shulzhenko is Assistant Professor at the Department of Marketing & Management.

Elena has been teaching at university level for over 10 years. Her research interests include work, technology, and management of people in different types of organizations and national contexts.