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# International Students and the ASE Research Process: A Language Acquisition Approach to Research

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# International Students & the ASE Research Process: A Language Acquisition Approach to Research

Kimberly Willson-St. Clair  
Reference & Instruction Librarian  
Portland State University

September 26, 2015

# 4<sup>th</sup> Week Spring Term 2015 – PSU International Students Top 6

Saudi Arabia	413
China	271
India	229
Brazil	111
Kuwait	111
Japan	109

Total enrollment - 1968



*Spring Term Factbook 2015 (4<sup>th</sup> Week).* Office of Institutional Research and Planning.  
Portland State University.



Office of International Affairs:  
International Student Services

About | F-1 Students | J-1 Students | International Student Life | Orientation | Health Insurance

A photograph of a diverse group of international students standing in a hallway. There are seven students in total, including men and women of various ethnicities. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The hallway has wooden walls and a patterned rug.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

Welcoming the World to PSU

<http://www.pdx.edu/international-students/>

# PSU – Waseda U Transnational Partnership

Waseda University > Portland State University

Oregon University students > Waseda University

<http://www.pdx.edu/transnational-programs/>

# Intensive English Language Program (IELP) at Portland State University

## About IELP



The IELP is part of Portland State University, a community-oriented urban university with a diverse student and teacher population. The IELP offers you full immersion and integration into PSU while you improve your English skills.

<http://www.pdx.edu/esl/about-ielp>



Photograph by  
Jeffrey St. Clair (2012)

# High Anxiety & Research & Libraries

- Defining “Library Anxiety” (Mellon, 1986).
- The “warmth” session (Mellon, 1986).
- Creating “an environment for learner readiness” (Vidmar, 1998).



# International Student Anxiety

- Emotional dimension to transitioning to their host country
- Culture shock
- Financial burdens and visa requirements
- Viable transfer of credits
- Adjusting to the problem solving nature of higher education in the West

# Home Base

The screenshot shows the Portland State University Library website. At the top left is the Portland State University logo and the word "Library". Below this is a navigation bar with links for "Research Tools & Collections", "Help & Services", "Study Spaces & Computers", and "About the Library". The main content area features a search bar with the text "Search by Keyword, Title, Author" and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar are radio buttons for "PSU Library", "PSU & Summit Libraries", and "PSU, Summit & Articles", along with links for "Advanced Search" and "Sign in (request options & more results)". To the right of the search bar are three red buttons: "Databases & Articles", "Subject Guides", and "Course Guides". Below the search bar are four green boxes with white text and leaf icons: "Reserve a Study Room", "Get Help", "Discover our Unique Collections", and "Support for Faculty". At the bottom, there is a blue bar and a grey bar with the text "Library News".

<http://library.pdx.edu/>

# IELP - Developing Your Research Strategy: Home

URL: <http://guides.library.pdx.edu/IELP>

Home

Analyze - Develop a Strategy

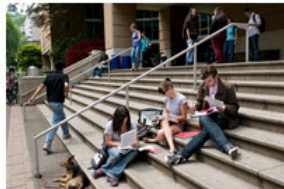
Search - Gather Information

Evaluate Your Sources

Citing Sources

Learn about the Library

## Analyze



### Analyze - Develop a Search Strategy

Background Information

Brainstorm for Keywords

## Search



### Search - Gather Information

Books and Films

Articles and Newspapers

## Evaluate



### Evaluate Your Sources

The C.R.A.P. Test

What is a Peer Review Article?

Library DIY: Research Help When You Need It!

## Your Librarian



Kimberly Willson-St. Clair

Contact:

[willsons@pdx.edu](mailto:willsons@pdx.edu)

503-725-4552

## Library Help



## ASE Research Model



<http://guides.library.pdx.edu/IELP>

- Library introduction
- Library building tour
- ASE research model
- Subject encyclopedias



## Research Process

### Analyze

your topic to **discover keywords**, related terms, or synonyms....Use scholarly, **subject encyclopedias** for background information.

### Search

for books, articles, web sites, documentaries....**List** relevant databases, web sites....

### Evaluate

the resource....**Is it relevant?** Is it current? Peer-reviewed? Scholarly or popular?

Copyright 2010© School of Library and Information Studies, Florida State University. Research led by [Dr. Melissa Gross](#) and [Dr. Don Latham](#). Project funded by [The Institute of Museum and Library Services](#), which is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas.

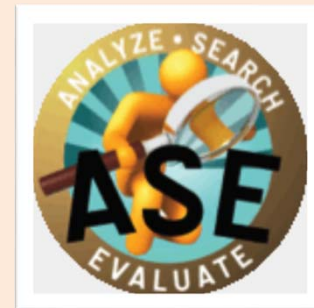


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May 4, 2015

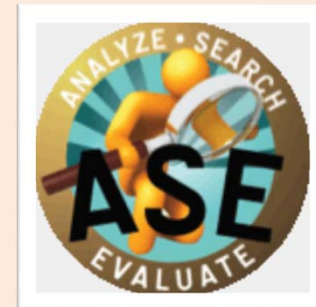
# Analyze

- Read entries in scholarly encyclopedias to discover the language of the discipline.



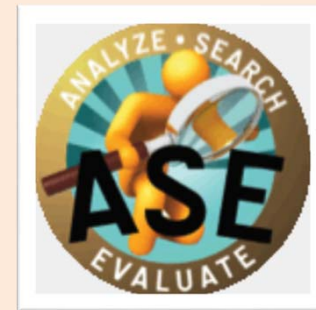
# Search

- Search for books, articles, or videos....
- What databases are you using for your search? Are you looking for books, websites?
- **List here:**



# Evaluate

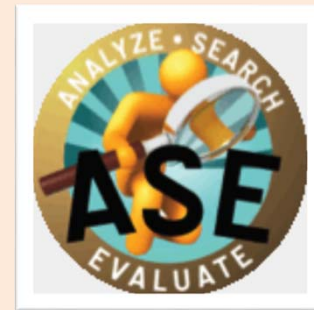
- Is the resource current, reliable, authoritative, pertinent?
- Is it a primary or secondary resource?
- Is it a scholarly or peer-reviewed article?





# Analyze

- Define / Refine your topic using keywords, descriptors, subject terms, and subject headings.



# De-contextualized > Contextualized Language Acquisition

- Vocabulary instruction
- Word lists
- Rote memorization
- Flash cards

**to**

Informed learning in context through extensive reading....  
Leading to a depth of cognitive processing.

(Nemati, 2009)

Task Based Language Learning  
+  
Scholarly Language of the Discipline  
(Hughes, Bruce, 2013)

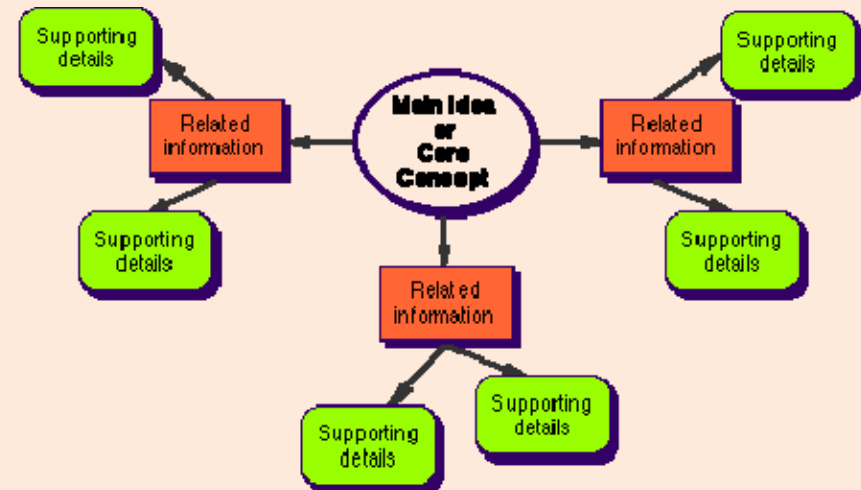
# Synonymy & Related Terms

A functional unity grounded in referential logic  
allows us to consider languages as  
**highly complex systems of synonyms.**

(Filatova, 2010)

# Keywords

- Native English Speakers > Natural Language



<http://gamedev.uconn.edu/> and  
<https://goalbookapp.com/toolkit/strategy/concept-mapping>

# Keywords

International Students > Discover Vocabulary



# International Students + Higher Education + new to United States

◀ Encyclopedia Entry 📖 ▶

Text size AA

Search within chapter...



## Culture Shock

Stella K. Hadjistassou

DOI: | <http://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781412963985.n84> | Print pages: 207-211 | [Show page numbers](#)

| [Show sub-headings](#)

Culture shock emerged in the mid-1950s as a useful concept to help explain the **emotional tension**, **adjustment problems**, and difficulties immigrants, **refugees** and **foreign students** face at school and in their personal lives when they are thrust into **new environments**. In the new setting, interrelations with friends, family members, and the broader community, as well as salient **linguistic, cultural, and religious values**, cannot be maintained or publicly practiced by these groups, since they often differ from the values and practices of the **host society**. In schools, culture shock has gained some attention due to the steady rise in the number of **immigrants** attending U.S. schools and the considerable differences between ethnic groups and mainstream student school performance.

# Keywords Activity

Education AND leadership

Air pollution AND United States

Homeless AND United States



?

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# Analyze for Keywords Activity

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