A Model of Research Pacing and Information Coaching:
An Adaptation of Carol Kuhlthau’s Information Search Process

Abstract

The model of Research Pacing and Information Coaching (RPIC) illustrates how research
projects can be structured or paced in a manner that promotes quality outcomes. When reference
librarians team with writing instructors on projects that are aligned with current studies regarding
how people conduct research, librarians can effectively coach students at key points during their
research in order to provide encouragement, technical assistance, and information insights
appropriate to each research stage. RPIC is based on Kuhlthau’s Information Search Process, but
RPIC extends Kuhlthau’s model by incorporating writing into the research process. Information
coaching from the reference desk is designed to teach students how to successfully conduct
library research and when to utilize reference assistance for most effective information retrieval.