# Information Literacy Stone Soup: Creating Vital Collaboration Between Librarians and Compositionists

Caitlin Bagley, Gonzaga University (bagley@gonzaga.edu) &
Ielleen Miller, Eastern Washington University (imiller@ewu.edu)
http://inlandinfolit.com

## Once upon a time...

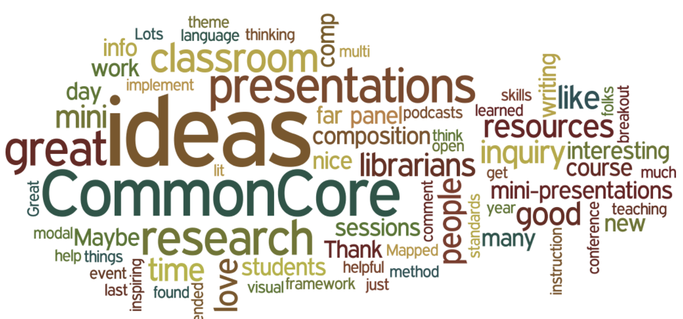
In the summer of 2009, a few librarians and compositionists in Spokane got together to plan a one-day conference:

- ✓ to explore the intersections between information literacy and composition, and
- ✓ to share best practices.

In 2016, we're holding our 8th annual conference! Attendance has ranged from 50-80, with the planning group members changing yearly and operating on a shoe-string budget.

Feedback has been very positive, and the evaluations show attendees value highly the time spent and learning from each other.

We credit our success out of a need in our region to share ideas across institutions, and to provide a low-cost, professional development opportunity for lecturers, adjuncts, and graduate students.




## Ingredients

- ❖ Multiple representatives from various institutions, preferably both librarians and compositionists.
- ❖ New faces and old-timers: try to have a mix of new people on the planning committee, as well as those with historical knowledge.
- ❖ Surprisingly, you don't have to start that early, except to set a date and book the location. Other planning can happen the summer before, or a few months before the event.
- ❖ Have a theme, but be flexible as to how people interpret the theme.
- ❖ You must have librarians as the leaders of the planning process. After all, we are the ones who are usually full-time faculty, and who are organized ☺.

## ...moral of the story

After several years, our process has developed where it is important to make sure planning notes and processes are documented, and contacts maintained. The Retreat with both librarians and compositionists in attendance helped to form better working relationships, and to create new projects and collaborations. Compositionists needed librarians to know that their outcomes were frequently the same as librarians, and librarians showed that their jobs held much more work than was previously believed. Like the children's story "Stone Soup", everyone's contribution results in a nourishing experience for all.