‘Breaking Bad’ Information Literacy in the Workplace:
How do we deal with the lack of synchronicity?

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Abstract: This session will report on the initial findings of our research study that explores the information seeking skills and knowledge of working professionals enrolled in an Executive MBA (EMBA) program at University of New Mexico. We will summarize the data we collected from semi-structured interviews with students in this program to explore their information literacy skills and behaviors. The interview content will include participants’ explanations of how they find and use both internal and external information to solve workplace problems and make decisions. The study will also explore the barriers these working professionals have in finding quality information for their workplace needs. In addition, we will describe the students’ challenges in transferring their workplace information seeking skills and knowledge to the academic world and their course work and/or vice versa. Our unique study population – full-time working professionals with at least five years of professional experience – offers an exceptional perspective on transferring information literacy from academia to the workplace. Additionally, we will offer recommendations on how to apply our findings to create unique instructional programs to increase information literacy skills for all students.

Problem Statement
Identify information seeking skills and knowledge of working professionals, enrolled in an Executive MBA program, in order to, develop more effective instruction for the academic and workplace information needs.

Constant issues
- Lack of classroom time for librarians;
- Librarians’ knowledge/instruction not integral to curriculum;
- Professional workers’ lack of time for “extras.”

Emerging themes
- Recognize a new perspective of information literacy outside of academia;
- Recognize current information literacy skills and behaviors of working professionals;
- Construct knowledge that librarians may use to create unique instructional programs/tutorials for working professionals.


