

Yin & Yang in Legal Research Instruction: Finding the Balance Between Tradition and Technology

By Michelle Hook Dewey & Heather J. E. Simmons. 18 AALL Spectrum 38 (2014).

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Reviewer's Summary:

In this article, Dewey and Simmons share how they approached teaching legal research together in light of the differences in their backgrounds and training. The biggest difference highlighted is that Dewey is younger (though not quite a “digital native”) and had experience with physical, virtual, and hybrid learning environments while Simmons learned to use print resources in a physical classroom. Their advice boils down to three points. First, instructors should assess the pedagogical purposes of each choice, such as whether to teach print resources or whether to use a “cool tool.” Second, find a partner and focus on your partner’s specific background rather than stereotypes based on age. Finally, keep an open mind about new pedagogical approaches and technologies, and consistently reevaluate over time.

Summarized by: Savanna Nolan, Georgetown University Law Library, in 2019.