

From Shelves To Skills: Applying Bloom's Taxonomy In Modern Library Operations

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Abstract

Background: Libraries today are more than just quiet rooms filled with books—they're vibrant learning hubs that support curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking. One powerful tool to guide this transformation is BT, a structure that breaks down conservative abilities into different stages like: Recollecting, consideration, relating, studying, Estimating, and Making. This article explores how libraries—whether in schools, universities, or communities—can use Bloom's Taxonomy to design smarter collections, more engaging programs, and more meaningful learning experiences.

Keywords: Bloom's Taxonomy; Information Literacy; User Engagement; Cognitive Learning; Library Programming; Educational Frameworks

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I. Introduction

Today's libraries are no longer just quiet spaces filled with shelves of books—they've become vibrant centers for learning, creativity, and community. Whether in schools, universities, or public settings, libraries play a powerful role in helping people develop skills that go far beyond reading and research. To make this learning more meaningful, librarians are turning to educational tools like BT.

Originally designed for classroom teaching, Bloom's Taxonomy is now finding its place in library operations, helping professionals design smarter collections, more engaging programs, and more thoughtful instruction. By using Bloom's to guide everyday tasks—such as selecting resources, teaching research strategies, hosting workshops, or assessing user learning—librarians can support deeper thinking and lifelong learning at every stage.

This article explores how Bloom's Taxonomy can be applied across different types of libraries, offering practical examples and insights from research. Whether working with students, researchers, or the general public, Bloom's provides a clear and flexible path for turning library services into meaningful learning experiences.

II. Review Of Literature

BT, coined by Bloom in 1950s and later revised by Anderson (2001), categorizes cognitive processes into six hierarchical levels. These levels have been widely used in education to scaffold learning from basic recall to complex creation.

In library science, B T has proven valuable for designing instruction and programming. Grassian and Kaplowitz (2009) demonstrated how librarians can use Bloom's to guide users from basic search skills to advanced source evaluation and synthesis. Their work highlights the importance of critical thinking in information literacy.

Folk et al. (2024) explored how Bloom's bridges traditional skills-based instruction with conceptual learning, enabling librarians to collaborate more effectively with faculty and tailor instruction to diverse cognitive levels. Iwuchukwu (2021) emphasized Bloom's role in organizing literature reviews, helping students move from summarizing sources to critiquing and connecting ideas.

In school libraries, Bloom's has been used to align instruction with curriculum goals. Studies from platforms like Studocu and 1Library.net show how librarians apply Bloom's to lesson planning, resource selection, and student assessment—particularly in micro-teaching and internship contexts.

Despite its benefits, Church (2009) noted challenges in applying Bloom's within digital environments, emphasizing the need for librarian training and support. Nonetheless, Bloom's remains a powerful framework for transforming library services into intentional learning experiences.

III. Why Bloom's Taxonomy Belongs In The Library

Bloom's Taxonomy offers librarians a structured way to design services that meet users at different stages of learning. Whether building a collection, teaching research skills, or hosting a workshop, Bloom's provides a roadmap for promoting deeper engagement and intellectual growth.

IV. Putting Bloom's Into Practice

Collection Development

Cognitive Level	Example Resources
Remembering	<i>100 Facts About Space, Basic Grammar Rules</i>
Understanding	<i>How the Internet Works</i>
Applying	<i>Coding Projects for Kids, How to Start a Podcast</i>
Analyzing	<i>Capitalism vs. Socialism, Different Religions Explained</i>
Evaluating	<i>Is AI Ethical?</i>
Creating	<i>Design Thinking Workbook, Creative Writing Journal</i>

Information Literacy Instruction

Cognitive Level	Instructional Activity
Remembering	List three reliable sources for research
Understanding	Explain the difference between scholarly and popular articles
Applying	Use Boolean operators in a database search
Analyzing	Compare two articles for bias and credibility
Evaluating	Assess the trustworthiness of a news source
Creating	Develop a research outline using multiple sources

User Engagement and Programming

Cognitive Level	Program Idea
Remembering	Trivia night on local history or literature
Understanding	Workshop on using eBooks or library apps
Applying	Resume-building session using online tools
Analyzing	Book club discussion comparing character development
Evaluating	Panel discussion critiquing film adaptations
Creating	Zine-making or digital storytelling workshop

Assessment and Feedback

Cognitive Level	Assessment Prompt
Remembering	"List three features of the library catalog."
Understanding	"Explain how to locate a book using the Dewey Decimal System."
Applying	"Use the library website to find a peer-reviewed article."
Analyzing	"Compare two search strategies and identify which is more efficient."
Evaluating	"Assess the reliability of a news source you found."
Creating	"Design a library guide for new users on how to conduct research."

V. Where This Works Best

- School Libraries: Align instruction with curriculum goals and support student learning across subjects.
- Academic Libraries: Structure research consultations, thesis support, and advanced literacy sessions using Bloom's framework.
- Public Libraries: Enrich community programs—such as digital literacy, career development, and creative writing—with cognitive scaffolding.

VI. Conclusion

Bloom's Taxonomy isn't just for classrooms—it's a powerful tool for librarians who want to create meaningful, learner-centered experiences. By applying its principles to everyday operations, libraries can evolve into spaces of transformation, where users engage deeply with information and develop lifelong learning skills.

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