

Effective Use of Professional Research Literature
Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics
QEP - Executive Summary

The primary purpose of GIAL's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is to facilitate the development of students who are able to more effectively use the professional research literature. GIAL's QEP topic — *Effective Use of Professional Research Literature* – emphasizes the research component of GIAL's mission statement:

The mission of the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics, as an institution of higher education, is to provide training and research opportunities leading to graduate degrees in applied linguistics and development of languages.

The QEP is designed to develop students' research and research reporting skills. The three major goals of the QEP are to enable students to:

- 1) Efficiently find professional research literature;
- 2) Effectively use professional research literature; and
- 3) Accurately document professional research literature.

GIAL's QEP contains seven student learning outcomes which make these three major goals explicit. Briefly, they are:

- 1) Students can locate appropriate research literature through a variety of ways, including institution-supplied tools and services.
- 2) Students can make use of sources with adequate coverage of the topic in question.
- 3) Students can select high quality and credible sources that are increasingly advanced and specialized.
- 4) Students can evaluate the relevance of the concepts found in the literature.
- 5) Students can apply insights from sources to their work.
- 6) Students can document all referenced sources accurately.
- 7) Students can format references consistently.

The Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics (GIAL) prepares students to work cross-culturally in areas of applied linguistics and language development. GIAL graduates build capacity for sustainable language development through research, translation, training others, and the development of literacy materials. Most students who come to GIAL desire to invest their lives in the development of minority languages, often by helping provide translation and literacy skills to those who speak previously unwritten languages. In many instances, graduates are working in previously unwritten languages. Workers in minority languages have a responsibility to describe and document these endangered languages. This involves the collection and analysis of primary data, and comparison of their analyses and descriptions with previously published research about related languages and cultures. Minority language workers have an ethical responsibility to make available data gathered through publication and other suitable means. It is imperative that GIAL graduates know how to efficiently find, effectively use, and accurately cite the professional research literature, especially if they want to make significant scholarly contributions to their discipline and the language communities they serve.

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