

Information Literacy Proficiencies for Students Ready to Move Into Upper-division Coursework

Information Literacy Articulation Group of Greater Portland - 4/10/08

Students who are ready to begin upper-division coursework can...

1. Identify gaps in their knowledge and recognize when they need information.

- Read and analyze assignments and class instructions.
- Determine the nature and extent of information needed.
- Confer with instructors, librarians, and others to focus and refine a research topic.
- Frame appropriate research questions and develop a manageable thesis statement.

2. Find information efficiently and effectively, using appropriate research tools and search strategies.

- Understand that there are different resources available for different purposes/subjects.
- Explore general information sources to increase familiarity with a topic.
- Recognize that information sources have an organizational structure and can find and use their navigational tools and access points.
- Formulate a search to locate and retrieve information effectively and efficiently using appropriate resources.
- Understand how to follow the trail from the citation to the item.
- Use the library to obtain materials including materials that aren't available locally.

3. Evaluate and select information using appropriate criteria.

- Critically evaluate information based on reliability, validity, accuracy, authority, timeliness, and point of view or bias.
- Compare and select information from various sources in order to accomplish a specific task.
- Understand that informational content and physical format are independent of each other.
- Judge the relevance of materials found with respect to the specific information need.

4. Treat research as a multi-stage, recursive learning process.

- Understand that information searching requires motivation, perseverance, and practice, and that skills are developed over time.
- Identify gaps in the information retrieved and modify or revise their topic or thesis and/or develop new search strategies.
- Formulate a realistic overall plan and timeline to acquire the needed information.

5. Ethically and legally use information and information technologies.

- Cite items or ideas used and does not represent work attributable to others as his/her own, and does not distort the author's intended meaning.
- Understand that citation of other works or ideas and plagiarism are ethical issues.
- Use citations to participate in an ongoing scholarly conversation.
- Understand that different disciplines have different citation standards and habits.
- Understand that there are legal issues surrounding copyrighted information.

6. Recognize safety issues involved with information sharing and information technologies.

- Recognize that the use of some technologies has potential health risks.
- Recognize potential safety and privacy risks of sharing personal information online.

7. Manipulate and manage information, using appropriate tools and technologies.

- Record and organize information resources to track the research process.
- Use tools and techniques to create and revise documents collaboratively.

8. Create, produce, and communicate understanding of a subject through synthesis of relevant information.

- Recognize that existing information can be combined with original thought, experimentation, and/or analysis to produce something new.
- Analyze resources and make conscious decisions about how each resource supports the development of the topic.
- Reconsider original idea based on new understanding.