



**UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST**

College of Humanities and Legal Studies

Faculty of Arts

Information Literacy Skills Unit

**ILT 101**

**FORMATION LITERACY SKILLS**

**SESSION 1 : INTRODUCTION TO INFORMATION LITERACY SKILLS**

# SESSION OBJECTIVES

By the end of the session, the student will be able to:

- Define information literacy skills
- Know the importance of information literacy skills
- State and explain the steps of the ACRL standards
- Apply the information literacy skills to their academic pursuit and thereafter

# INTRODUCTION

- The world is confronted with making a number of decisions on daily basis. We all need to make decisions at a point in time.
- How successful we are able to do this depends on a combination of skills known as “information literacy”.
- In a world that is information rich, librarians are information smart.
- Information professionals (Librarians) bridge the information gap by ensuring that people have the resources and skills they need to live, learn, work and govern in democratic dispensations.
- **Librarians** have been organizing **information** and guiding people find timely information for centuries.

# DEFINITION OF INFORMATION

Facts provided or learnt about something or someone.

Information is data that have been processed into a

form that is meaningful to the recipient or data that

have been collected, processed and stored in

retrievable format.

# CONCEPT OF INFORMATION LITERACY

- Zurkowski (1974) defined information literacy as the ability to use techniques and skills from a wide range of information tools as well as primary sources to find solutions to problems.
- Thomas (2004) defined information literacy as a body of knowledge ,skills, competencies and understanding required by the individual to find information effectively and use it appropriately to meet the need that prompted its acquisition.
- Association of College and Research Libraries(ACRL) (2015)— set of skills needed to find, retrieve, analyze and use information.
- Information literacy is a set of individual competencies needed to identify, evaluate and use information in the most ethical, efficient and effective way across all domains occupations and professions.

# IMPORTANCE OF INFORMATION LITERACY

University education

Sharpens your critical thinking skills— you will be able to carry out tasks, distinguish facts from opinions, access the accuracy and relevancy of information from myriad sources

Everyday living

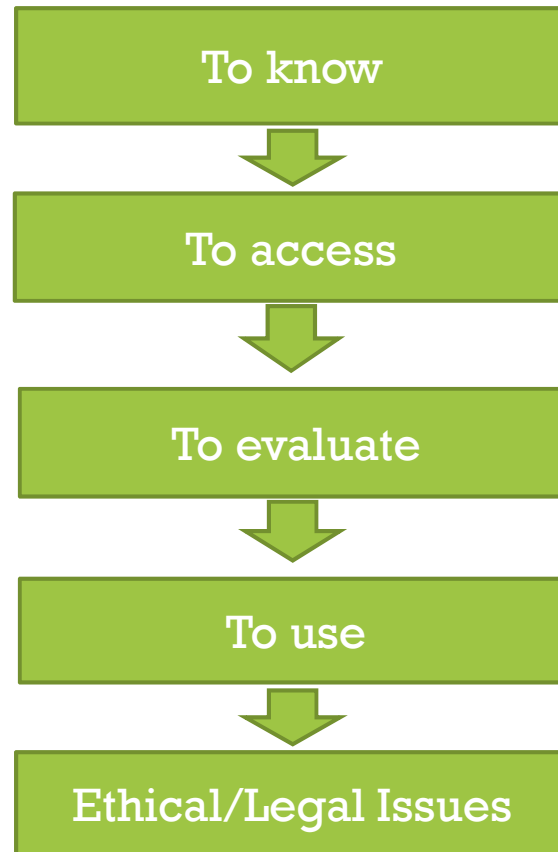
Long learning

Become responsible citizen

Workplace environment

Makes you ready for the competitive job market

# WORLD STANDARD OF INFORMATION LITERACY



# CONCLUSION

- ***Information literacy*** refers to a set of qualities that mold an ordinary student into a skillful, "wise information consumer" and "lifelong learner."
- Information literacy isn't just a course you do in the university rather becoming "information literate" is something you acquire, via your coursework, personal experiences and interactions with information you encounter in everyday life.



# READING LIST

ACRL Information Literacy Web Site Step-by-Step Standards Retrieved from <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/issues/infolit/standards/steps/index.cfm> on 21st January, 2014.

Baumbach, D. T. (1986). *Information skills for the information age: The state of our States*, In Aaron, S. L. & Scales, P. R . (Eds.), *School Library Media Annual* (Vol. 4, pp. 278-285). Littleton, CO: Libraries Unlimited Inc.

Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP). What is Information Literacy? Retrieved from [www.cilip.org.uk/cilip/advocacy](http://www.cilip.org.uk/cilip/advocacy) on 21st January, 2014).