Student Newsletter Issue 42

**Campus Post**

# **Information Literacy**

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# anaging the vast amount of information inundating us daily can be an overwhelming task Information literacy is a 21st century skill set that prepares students, employees, and citizens to manage information so that they can be knowledgeable decision makers.

## What Is Information Literacy?

As the web and Internet have become a mainstay at home, work, and school, experts have realized that the traditional basic literacy skills of reading, writing, and arithmetic are insufficient for living a productive life. According to the Association of College & Research Libraries,

**Lifelong skills  
 are needed  
 “to locate, evaluate, and use effectively  
 the needed  
 information.”**

**Associating of College & Research Libraries**

## Information Literacy Components

Information literacy includes five categories: digital literacy, library instruction, media literacy, numerical literacy, and traditional literacy.

### Digital Literacy

Using the Internet, computers, mobile devices, and related technologies effectively is a necessity in school, business, and society. It also is critical to be aware of general concerns that may be associated with working with and using technology in the world. This includes the integration of technology in business and education, as well as its effects on personal and national security.

## *(Article continues on next page)*

## Campus ID

Did you know you can receive a 10 percent discount around town just by showing your campus ID? These establishments participate in our discount Campus ID program: Amy’s Diner, Discount Duds, Granger Food Mart, Hopedale Car Wash, Kramer Books, Mo’s Coffeehouse, Oak View Fitness Center, Quick Stop Fuel, and Wilton Deli.

## Campus Clothier

Stop by Campus Clothier for discount school spirit wear. We stock a variety of T-shirts, crew neck and hooded sweatshirts, shorts, sweatpants, and hats in school colors and with the school logo. We are open weekdays from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Bring in this newsletter during October and receive a free school keychain!

## Next Issue

The next issue of *Campus Post* will address interviewing techniques.

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## Library Instruction

Undergraduates rarely seek the help of librarians when performing research for their academic assignments. This lack of help may be due, in part, to the fact that the students do not understand the role of the reference librarian. Information literate individuals use the librarians’ expertise in locating relevant sources. They also can assistwith ways to properly cite sources; search the web, databases, and other research locations; find and evaluate resources; and browse through organized cataloged information.

### Media Literacy

Skills needed to understand how mass communication and popular culture affect learning and entertainment include the ability to analyze and evaluate how music, film, video, television, and other nonprint media are used effectively to persuade and inform.

### Numerical Literacy

The ability to use basic math skills and interpret data is critical to solving problems and communicating information. Also important are understanding how data is gathered and presented in graphs, charts, and other visuals and how to interpret and verify the information that is presented in media.

### Traditional Literacy

Individuals who can read and understand a variety of documents are likely to complete their education, gain employment, and participate in groups throughout the community. These individuals also should think critically about the content they have read and be able to express their thoughts by writing and speaking coherently.

## Effective Research and Composition

Establishing an appropriate topic, identifying sources, evaluating materials, and creating the final work, require effort and careful thought.

### Establish an Appropriate Topic

Identify the purpose and the audience. Determine an effective method of communicating the information, such as a written paper, oral presentation, blog, or social network post. Explore and narrow the topic so that it is manageable within time and logistical constraints. Determine the audience’s familiarity with the topic and the need to locate reference materials.

### Identify Sources

Determine where to locate online and print resources, which include websites, digital media such as audio and video, databases, and printed materials. It is important that you differentiate between primary and secondary sources, current and historical materials, and popular and scholarly articles.

### Evaluate Materials

Analyze the sources so that you can determine reliability, accuracy, timeliness, and bias. Compare the materials to determine if the authors agree or disagree with topics.

### Create the Final Work

Organize and integrate the source material using direct quotations, paraphrases, and graphs when necessary to clarify the message. Use the writing process to create, review, revise, and proofread.