

What is Information Literacy?

Information Literacy is a set of abilities that require individuals to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate and use effectively the needed information. Information Literacy forms the basis for lifelong learning. It is common to all disciplines, to all learning environments and to all levels of education. It enables learner to master content and extend their investigations, become more self-directed and assume greater control over their own learning.

Where does the library fit in to this definition? Information Literacy is separated into three tiers, focusing on the research and information gathering skills of the student. Within these Tiers the Williams Library has developed learning modules based on tools and skills. These modules will help your students to develop better skills in performing and reporting research, critically evaluating information whether from scholarly or popular sources, and to learn how to avoid plagiarism. In addition, librarians are available to visit your class using hands-on techniques to introduce your student to print and electronic journal articles and other electronic resources.

You are welcome to use any and all of the modules as long as you attribute the source. Learning objects developed or adapted by Library faculty and staff are permitted to be used under the Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 3.0 United States License. Please note that these resources are adapted from a variety of sources and often refer to the library that developed the resource and are not necessarily specific to TAMUG Libraries. Please make your students aware of this and encourage them to think critically about the content, not the source.

Tiers 1 and 2 Skills: Freshmen and Sophomores

- Learning to use the Library catalog
- Learning to read Library of Congress Classification call numbers
- Differentiate between open and restricted web sites
- Learn to effectively evaluate web sites
- Learn to search Library databases
- Learn the basic services and resources of the library
- Define plagiarism
- Identify the basic elements of a citation
- Learn to find and use Library research guides

Tier 3 Skills: Juniors, Senior and Grad Students

- Tiers 1 and 2 skills and tools
- Differentiate between primary, secondary and tertiary sources of information
- Learn to locate and use appropriate subject-specific reference works
- Find articles when given a citation
- Advanced searching techniques
- Learn strategies to ensure comprehensiveness of a search