

Information Literacy Skills and Subskills

Information literacy is the ability to:

- Identify what information is needed
- Understand how information is organized
- Identify the best sources of information for a given need
- Locate the best sources
- Evaluate sources critically
- Share information

University of Idaho. (2012). *Information Literacy Portal*. Retrieved from www.webs.uidaho.edu/info_literacy/

Information Literacy Subskills

Access information efficiently and effectively

- Recognize the need for information
- Recognize that accurate and comprehensive information is the basis for intelligent decision making
- Formulate questions based on information needs
- Identify a variety of potential sources of information
- Develop and use successful strategies for locating information

Evaluate information critically and competently

- Determine accuracy, relevance, and comprehensiveness
- Distinguish among fact, point of view, and opinion
- Identify inaccurate and misleading information
- Select information appropriate to the problem or question at hand

Use information accurately and creatively

- Organize information for practical application
- Integrate new information into one's own knowledge
- Apply information in critical thinking and problem solving
- Produce and communicate information and ideas in appropriate formats

Information Literacy Resources

American Association of School Librarians (AASL) Information Literacy: Unlocking Your Child's Door to the World

www.ala.org/aasl/aboutaasl/aaslcommunity/quicklinks/informationliteracy*

AASL provides leadership for the development of dynamic, student-centered school library media programs. These programs help ensure that students master the information literacy skills needed to be discerning consumers and creative producers of information.

TRAILS: Tool for Real-time Assessment of Information Literacy Skills

www.trails-9.org*

A knowledge assessment with multiple-choice questions targeting a variety of information literacy skills based on 3rd, 6th, 9th, and 12th grade standards. This web-based system was developed to provide an easily accessible and flexible tool for teachers to identify strengths and weaknesses in the information-seeking skills of their students.

Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) Information Literacy Competency Standards

www.ala.org/acrl/standards/informationliteracycompetency*

The ACRL site provides an overview of information literacy skills, including links to standards adopted for higher education.