Information Literacy

Information literacy is the ability to think critically about using information for a specific purpose, whether for educational research, on the job decision making, or personal need.

Mission Statement:

Our mission at the Meriam Library is to incorporate information literacy into the university curriculum by focusing our efforts on teaching students these skills during the process of research. Being able to develop a quality research question, and to locate, evaluate, and successfully synthesize that information into a quality research product are critical components of college success. We believe that teaching information literacy skills within the context of course-related research will not only improve student research, but also allow students to apply and transfer these skills to other domains, both in their college careers, and beyond. This approach furthers the library’s aim of fostering lifelong-learning and curiosity in our students.

The library, following WASC university-wide recommendations towards increased effectiveness and accountability, has established the following learning outcomes and related performance indicators to implement and assess student retention of information literacy skills at California State University, Chico.

Information Literacy Standards:

The information literate California State University, Chico Student will be able to:

Outcome #1: **Identify a research question and craft a clear, manageable thesis.**

- Students will interpret an assignment to identify their required information and research needs.
- Students will approach the research process as an occasion to investigate something that authentically interests them.
- Students will take an initial personal interest and formulate from that interest several possible research questions for further investigation.
- Students will narrow down a manageable research question (or set of related questions) from their preliminary research based on the information that is available to them through library resources and the free web.

Contact Information: Kevin Klipfel, *Information Literacy Coordinator*, Meriam Library, Office: 530-898-4990
kklipfel@csuchico.edu
Outcome #2: Skillfully find information related to their research question.

- Students will approach searching for information as an iterative, multi-step process.
- Students will understand the difference between searching for information on the free web vs. the library.
- Students will develop keywords from their topic question in order to successfully search library resources on their chosen topics.
- Students will perform basic keyword using the library catalog and database.
- Students will distinguish between and perform different types of searches.
- Students will locate information contained within a citation.

Outcome #3: Think critically in order to evaluate and synthesize information into their research product.

- Students will develop the critical thinking skills required to assess the reliability of a particular source by learning and applying criteria to evaluate the quality of information.
- Students will interpret scholarly materials and strategically read scholarly materials to meet their information needs.
- Students will understand that one single source may not solve all their research needs and will begin to use multiple sources.
- Students will differentiate between multiple source types and intelligently synthesize that information into their research.
- Students will use sources as evidential support for claims they make in their research.

Outcome #4: Ethically use information.

- Students will locate sources providing information about how to properly cite information used in their research.
- Students will identify and apply the correct citation style for their disciplinary purposes.

Contact Information: Kevin Klipfel, Information Literacy Coordinator, Meriam Library, Office: 530-898-4990
kklipfel@csuchico.edu