

Information Literacy Goals for First Year Students - 2006

Statement of Problem: There is a growing recognition that universities have a responsibility to graduate students who are prepared for lifelong learning. A critical aspect of lifelong learning is information literacy, the ability to locate, manage, critically evaluate, and use information for problem solving, research, and decision making. Currently there is no systematic method for ensuring students develop these skills before they graduate. Students, faculty, and librarians would benefit from a program that would encourage students to engage with the wide variety of information sources available to them, to ask questions, and to think critically about information. Suggested goals for information literacy in the first year experience are:

Information Literacy Goals for First Year Students:

- Students are familiar with and comfortable navigating the physical library and the Library ReSEARCH Station
- Students can develop a focused topic or question and choose the appropriate source(s) from the variety of information choices available to them in college to answer their information need
- Students can construct an effective search statement
- Students can interpret a bibliographic citation and locate the information they have found, whether it is linked to the citation, in another database, in the library, or available through interlibrary loan
- Students can evaluate the worth of information they find against their information need based on currency, relevance, authority, accuracy and purpose
- Students understand what constitutes plagiarism and knows how to use information ethically