Boosting Information Literacy

How librarians can empower students to succeed

A pressing challenge facing students is accessing the precise information their studies require in an ever-expanding information landscape.

By taking steps to build information literacy — and to support teaching, learning, and research at their institutions — academic librarians can play a crucial role in setting up students for success.

What is information literacy?

The American Library Association defines information literacy as a set of abilities whereby individuals can “recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information.”

Fundamental information literacy skills

An information literate person should be able to:

- **DETERMINE** the extent of information needed
- **ACCESS** the needed information effectively and efficiently
- **INCORPORATE** selected information into one's knowledge base
- **EVALUATE** information and its sources critically
- **UNDERSTAND** the legal and other issues surrounding the use of information; access and use information ethically and legally
- **USE** information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose

Librarians can help

Librarians can boost students’ information literacy skills by taking these 5 action steps:

1. Ensure students are informed about library services
2. Recommend strategies for discovering content
3. Educate students on how to analyze content
4. Introduce students to the research community
5. Start students on the path to becoming a peer reviewer (optional; for relevant academic fields)

Find out more

Elsevier is committed to supporting librarians in their efforts to help students and faculty in their academic journeys. To learn more about how information literacy extends beyond the classroom — and how we can help — visit us at: elsevier.com/sciencedirect/higher-education

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