



Goal & Mission Statement for the Information Literacy Instruction Program

GOAL & MISSION STATEMENT

In a technologically sophisticated, knowledge-driven society, it is crucial that residents of North Central Indiana be prepared for lifelong learning. In keeping with the missions of both the Indiana University Kokomo campus and its Library, the goal of the instruction program is to teach information literacy skills and concepts to the students, scholars, and community members who use the Indiana University Kokomo Library.

This teaching mission is designed to enable those who use the Library to become competent and ethical seekers, evaluators, and users of information in all of its formats. This critical mission is realized through a series of introductory presentations in required freshmen composition classes; through integrated course-specific instruction; through guides and handouts; through instructional online Web pages; through individual appointments; and through point-of-use consultations.

INFORMATION LITERACY DEFINED¹

Information literacy is a set of abilities requiring individuals to "recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information."

Information is available through libraries, community resources, special interest organizations, media, and the Internet--and increasingly, information comes to individuals in unfiltered formats, raising questions about its authenticity, validity, and reliability. In addition, information is available through multiple media, including graphical, aural, and textual, and these pose new challenges for individuals in evaluating and understanding it. The uncertain quality and expanding quantity of information pose large challenges for society. **The sheer abundance of information will not in itself create a more informed citizenry without a complementary cluster of abilities necessary to use information effectively.**

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 learners to master content and extend their investigations, become more self-directed, and assume greater control over their own learning. An information literate individual is able to:

- Determine the extent of information needed
- Access the needed information effectively and efficiently
- Evaluate information and its sources critically
- Incorporate selected information into one's knowledge base
- Use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- Understand the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information, and access and use information ethically and legally

1. Excerpted from:

[Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education](#)
The Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of
the American Library Association, 2000