

Information Literacy

“To be information literate, an individual must recognize when information is needed, and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the information needed.”

– Presidential Committee on Information Literacy (1989)

I. Rationale

Information literacy—the ability to recognize when information is needed and to locate, evaluate, and effectively use that needed information—is not only crucial for academic success, but is a quality employers look for in potential employees.

We live and work in an information economy, where the average employee spends “9.5 hours a week obtaining, reviewing, and analyzing information.”¹ In order to be competitive in the job market, graduates must be information proficient.

The purpose of this course is to teach students skills to find and evaluate needed information, skills they will use throughout their academic careers and well into their professional lives.

II. Objectives

The information student will be able to

1. determine the nature and extent of the information need
2. access the needed information effectively and efficiently
3. evaluate information and its sources critically
4. incorporate information into her or his knowledge base and value system
5. use information effectively to accomplish a purpose
6. understand the economic, legal and social issues surrounding the use of information and access and use information legally and ethically²

¹ Corcoran, Mary and Anthea Stratigos. 2001. Knowledge Management: It's All About Behavior. Information About Information Briefing. Burlingame, CA: Outsell, Inc. (January):3

² American College & Research Library Association. 2000. Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education. <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlstandards>

Course Outline

b. Class 1 – Introduction

1. Introduction to the James E. Cheek Library & other Shaw University Libraries (i.e. Wiggins, CMC)
2. Explanation of Library policies and services
3. [Register to become a library user.](#)
4. [What is Information Literacy? \(.ppt\)](#)

c. Class 2 – Beginning research – how can the library help?

1. [Articulate Information Need \(.ppt\)](#)
2. [Library Basics – OPAC, Call Numbers, etc.](#)

d. Class 3 – Access Information Effectively & Efficiently

1. [Access Information Effectively & Efficiently \(.ppt\)](#)

e. Class 4 – Evaluating Information

1. [Evaluating Information Sources](#)

f. Class 5 - Using Information Ethically and Legally

1. [Using Information Legally & Ethically](#)