

Information Literacy Program

WHAT IS INFORMATION LITERACY?

It is the ability to recognize when information is needed and to locate, evaluate, and use it effectively. This set of skills provides a foundation for critical thinking, problem solving, and lifelong learning. Student development of information literacy is a process that spans the four-year college experience. At JMU, librarians collaborate with instructional faculty in developing information literate students at two levels: basic information literacy and research skills in the major.



LEARNING OBJECTS



www.lib.jmu.edu/instruction/learningobjects.aspx

LIBRARY INSTRUCTION

Liaison librarians provide course-related library instruction on request. This instruction focuses on helping students learn information-seeking and evaluation skills important to their field of study. Both Carrier Library and East Campus Library have classrooms with computers for hands-on experience. Librarians may also provide instruction in a classroom or campus lab. Contact your liaison librarian to request instruction.

LEARNING OBJECTS

A “learning object” is a small chunk of educational content that can be used online or in the classroom. The library has developed a number of learning objects to support information literacy skill development. Topics include:

- Peer Reviewed Journals
- Evaluating Web Sites
- Database Search Techniques

Faculty may use these in the classroom or link to them from course pages in Blackboard. See a complete list of learning objects on the Information Literacy Web page, www.lib.jmu.edu/instruction

FACULTY WORKSHOPS

For teaching faculty, the library offers an annual workshop on designing information literacy assignments. See www.lib.jmu.edu/instruction for more.

RECOGNIZE. LOCATE. EVALUATE.

USE INFORMATION EFFECTIVELY.

BASIC LEVEL

First-year students learn basic information literacy concepts in the General Education Cluster One curriculum by completing Go for the Gold, a web-based tutorial on how to find and evaluate information.

These skills are reinforced and strengthened through resource-based assignments in Cluster One courses.

ISST

By the end of the first year students must demonstrate competency by passing the Information Seeking Skills Test (ISST), administered in a secure testing lab in Ashby Hall.

OBJECTIVES

The following are information literacy objectives for JMU General Education Cluster One students:

- Determine when information is needed and find it efficiently using a variety of reference sources.
- Evaluate the quality of the information.
- Use the information effectively for an appropriate purpose.
- Employ appropriate technologies to create an information-based product.
- Use information ethically and legally.

SKILLS IN THE MAJOR

The Liaison Program provides a librarian for each academic department to support integrating information literacy into the curriculum of the discipline. Liaison librarians collaborate with faculty to:

- Develop resource-based assignments that reinforce information literacy skills.
- Develop subject guides, learning objects, and other supporting instruction.
- Embed information literacy in a research-oriented, required course.

Through planned experiences and activities, students learn information search strategies and evaluation techniques specific to their discipline.

SUBJECT GUIDES

Each major field of study has an online subject guide developed by the liaison librarian that:

- Instructs and guides faculty and students in finding, evaluating, and using the information they need.
- Provides contact information for research assistance.
- Promotes services, such as interlibrary loan and delivery.
- Provides links to key databases and reference tools in the discipline.

www.lib.jmu.edu/guides/



An effective information literacy assignment includes:

Learning Objectives

Specific information literacy skills students are expected to learn are clearly stated. Optimally, an assignment has at least one objective for each of the five ACRL Information Literacy Standards.

An Information Product

The assignment provides students with an opportunity to find, evaluate, and use information while learning course content. The product could be a paper, a speech, or some other product.

Supporting Materials / Instruction

Instruction on how to find and evaluate the needed information helps students complete the assignment successfully and learn important skills. Liaison librarians can develop online class guides and offer library instruction to support an assignment.

Assessment

Evaluation criteria for the information literacy learning objectives are clear, in writing, and distributed with the assignment. Information literacy rubrics can be adapted to fit an assignment.

Find examples:

www.lib.jmu.edu/instruction/assignments.aspx

Learn More About the Program

CARRIER LIBRARY • EAST CAMPUS LIBRARY • MUSIC LIBRARY, MUSIC BUILDING • CHILDREN'S COLLECTION, MEMORIAL HALL

Information Literacy Program

www.lib.jmu.edu/instruction

Find links to:

- Creating Effective Information Literacy Assignments
- Information Literacy Learning Objects
- JMU Information Literacy Publications and Presentations
- Faculty Development Opportunities -- assignment design workshops and more
- Model assignments developed by JMU faculty

JMU Liaison Librarian Program

www.lib.jmu.edu/liaisons

Go For the Gold

www.lib.jmu.edu/gold

Information Seeking Skills Test

www.lib.jmu.edu/gold/isst.htm

Association of College and Research Libraries

Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education

www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/standards/standards.pdf

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JMU Libraries

CARRIER LIBRARY

EAST CAMPUS LIBRARY

MUSIC LIBRARY



INFORMATION LITERACY PROGRAM

*Collaborating with faculty
to develop information
literate students*

www.lib.jmu.edu/instruction