



NSSE 2017 Topical Module Report

Experiences with Information Literacy

Central Connecticut State University

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About This Topical Module

Developed in collaboration with college and university librarians, this module asks students about their use of information and how much their instructors emphasized the proper use of information sources. This module complements questions on the core survey about higher-order learning and how much writing students do.

Comparison Group

This section summarizes how this module's comparison group was identified, including selection criteria and whether the default option was taken. This is followed by the resulting list of institutions represented in the 'Info Lit Pub Master's' column of this report.

Group label	Info Lit Pub Master's
Date submitted	5/5/17
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution customized this group by selecting institutional characteristics as follows: Basic Classification (Master's L, Master's M, Master's S); Sector (Pub)
Group description	Institutions participating in Experiences with Information Literacy & are Public Master's Level institutions

Info Lit Pub Master's (N=20)

California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo (San Luis Obispo, CA)
 California State University San Marcos (San Marcos, CA)*
 California State University-Stanislaus (Turlock, CA)
 California State University, Monterey Bay (Seaside, CA)
 Cameron University (Lawton, OK)*
 Chadron State College (Chadron, NE)
 Christopher Newport University (Newport News, VA)
 Eastern Connecticut State University (Willimantic, CT)
 Ferris State University (Grand Rapids, MI)*
 Grand Valley State University (Allendale, MI)*
 Longwood University (Farmville, VA)
 Northwestern Oklahoma State University (Alva, OK)
 Southern Utah University (Cedar City, UT)*
 State University of New York at Geneseo, The (Geneseo, NY)
 SUNY Empire State College (Saratoga Springs, NY)
 Towson University (Towson, MD)
 University of Baltimore (Baltimore, MD)*
 University of Montevallo (Montevallo, AL)*
 West Chester University of Pennsylvania (West Chester, PA)*
 William Paterson University of New Jersey (Wayne, NJ)*

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				CCSU		Info Lit Pub Master's		CCSU	Info Lit Pub Master's	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
1. During the current school year, about how often have you done the following?										
a. Completed an assignment that used an information source (book, article, website, etc.) other than required course readings	INL01a	1	Never	9	5	124	2	3.0	3.1	-.14
		2	Sometimes	42	22	1,130	23			
		3	Often	86	46	1,974	39			
		4	Very often	53	27	1,831	35			
		Total		190	100	5,059	100			
b. Worked on a paper or project that had multiple smaller assignments such as an outline, annotated bibliography, rough draft, etc.	INL01b	1	Never	8	4	264	5	2.7	2.9 ***	-.25
		2	Sometimes	76	41	1,302	27			
		3	Often	70	37	2,008	40			
		4	Very often	36	18	1,464	28			
		Total		190	100	5,038	100			
c. Received feedback from an instructor that improved your use of information resources (source selection, proper citation, etc.)	INL01c	1	Never	16	9	246	5	2.8	2.8	-.08
		2	Sometimes	51	27	1,444	30			
		3	Often	79	42	2,074	40			
		4	Very often	43	23	1,274	25			
		Total		189	100	5,038	100			
d. Completed an assignment that used the library's electronic collection of articles, books, and journals (JSTOR, EBSCO, LexisNexis, ProQuest, etc.)	INL01d	1	Never	42	21	827	17	2.3	2.5 **	-.21
		2	Sometimes	73	39	1,731	35			
		3	Often	54	29	1,470	29			
		4	Very often	21	11	1,021	20			
		Total		190	100	5,049	100			
e. Decided not to use an information source in a course assignment due to its questionable quality	INL01e	1	Never	53	27	1,203	23	2.2	2.2	-.03
		2	Sometimes	66	36	2,120	42			
		3	Often	57	29	1,219	24			
		4	Very often	14	8	496	10			
		Total		190	100	5,038	100			
f. Changed the focus of a paper or project based on information you found while researching the topic	INL01f	1	Never	34	18	814	16	2.3	2.3	.00
		2	Sometimes	74	40	2,237	45			
		3	Often	64	35	1,479	29			
		4	Very often	16	8	505	10			
		Total		188	100	5,035	100			
g. Looked for a reference that was cited in something you read	INL01g	1	Never	35	17	784	16	2.4	2.4	-.04
		2	Sometimes	71	38	1,956	39			
		3	Often	61	33	1,605	32			
		4	Very often	22	12	690	14			
		Total		189	100	5,035	100			
h. Identified how a book, article, or creative work has contributed to a field of study	INL01h	1	Never	40	21	1,029	21	2.2	2.3	-.05
		2	Sometimes	77	42	1,978	40			
		3	Often	57	28	1,454	28			
		4	Very often	15	9	561	11			
		Total		189	100	5,022	100			

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the endnotes page for the key to triangle symbols.

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				CCSU		Info Lit Pub Master's		CCSU	Info Lit Pub Master's	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
2. During the current school year, how much have your instructors emphasized the following?										
a. Not plagiarizing another author's work	INL02a	1	Very little	3	2	73	2	3.5	3.6	-.15
		2	Some	19	11	368	8			
		3	Quite a bit	52	29	1,174	24			
		4	Very much	114	59	3,412	67			
			Total	188	100	5,027	100			
b. Appropriately citing the sources used in a paper or project	INL02b	1	Very little	5	3	86	2	3.3	3.5	-.14
		2	Some	21	11	462	10			
		3	Quite a bit	64	34	1,488	30			
		4	Very much	97	52	2,989	58			
			Total	187	100	5,025	100			
c. Using scholarly or peer-reviewed sources in your course assignments	INL02c	1	Very little	12	7	184	4	3.1	3.3 **	-.21
		2	Some	34	18	678	14			
		3	Quite a bit	61	33	1,617	33			
		4	Very much	81	42	2,543	50			
			Total	188	100	5,022	100			
d. Questioning the quality of information sources	INL02d	1	Very little	10	6	279	6	3.0	3.1	-.11
		2	Some	40	22	972	19			
		3	Quite a bit	71	38	1,690	34			
		4	Very much	65	34	2,078	41			
			Total	186	100	5,019	100			
e. Using practices (terminology, methods, writing style, etc.) of a specific major or field of study	INL02e	1	Very little	14	7	414	8	2.9	2.9	-.04
		2	Some	52	29	1,325	27			
		3	Quite a bit	64	34	1,562	31			
		4	Very much	56	30	1,696	33			
			Total	186	100	4,997	100			
3. How much has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in using information effectively?										
	INL03	1	Very little	9	5	124	3	2.9	3.0 **	-.22
		2	Some	47	25	1,011	21			
		3	Quite a bit	89	48	2,343	46			
		4	Very much	41	22	1,546	30			
			Total	186	100	5,024	100			

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the endnotes page for the key to triangle symbols.

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				CCSU		Info Lit Pub Master's		CCSU	Info Lit Pub Master's	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
1. During the current school year, about how often have you done the following?										
a. Completed an assignment that used an information source (book, article, website, etc.) other than required course readings	INL01a	1	Never	17	6	132	2	3.0	3.3 ***	-.29
		2	Sometimes	63	22	1,081	17			
		3	Often	102	35	2,076	31			
		4	Very often	112	38	3,364	50			
		Total		294	100	6,653	100			
b. Worked on a paper or project that had multiple smaller assignments such as an outline, annotated bibliography, rough draft, etc.	INL01b	1	Never	40	14	488	8	2.7	2.9 ***	-.22
		2	Sometimes	78	26	1,686	26			
		3	Often	100	34	2,220	33			
		4	Very often	76	26	2,244	33			
		Total		294	100	6,638	100			
c. Received feedback from an instructor that improved your use of information resources (source selection, proper citation, etc.)	INL01c	1	Never	39	14	531	9	2.6	2.8 ***	-.22
		2	Sometimes	96	32	1,812	28			
		3	Often	98	34	2,444	36			
		4	Very often	60	21	1,836	27			
		Total		293	100	6,623	100			
d. Completed an assignment that used the library's electronic collection of articles, books, and journals (JSTOR, EBSCO, LexisNexis, ProQuest, etc.)	INL01d	1	Never	81	28	770	12	2.3	2.8 ***	-.50
		2	Sometimes	85	30	1,624	26			
		3	Often	67	22	1,803	27			
		4	Very often	61	19	2,439	35			
		Total		294	100	6,636	100			
e. Decided not to use an information source in a course assignment due to its questionable quality	INL01e	1	Never	90	30	1,756	26	2.1	2.2	-.09
		2	Sometimes	112	38	2,610	40			
		3	Often	60	21	1,479	22			
		4	Very often	32	11	793	12			
		Total		294	100	6,638	100			
f. Changed the focus of a paper or project based on information you found while researching the topic	INL01f	1	Never	82	28	1,069	17	2.2	2.3 **	-.17
		2	Sometimes	107	36	3,023	45			
		3	Often	71	25	1,731	26			
		4	Very often	33	11	804	12			
		Total		293	100	6,627	100			
g. Looked for a reference that was cited in something you read	INL01g	1	Never	52	18	860	13	2.5	2.6 *	-.13
		2	Sometimes	100	34	2,309	35			
		3	Often	93	32	2,103	32			
		4	Very often	48	16	1,360	20			
		Total		293	100	6,632	100			
h. Identified how a book, article, or creative work has contributed to a field of study	INL01h	1	Never	71	24	1,105	17	2.3	2.5 *	-.15
		2	Sometimes	97	34	2,392	36			
		3	Often	84	29	2,001	30			
		4	Very often	40	13	1,100	16			
		Total		292	100	6,598	100			

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the endnotes page for the key to triangle symbols.

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				CCSU		Info Lit Pub Master's		CCSU	Info Lit Pub Master's	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
2. During the current school year, how much have your instructors emphasized the following?										
a. Not plagiarizing another author's work	INL02a	1	Very little	8	3	204	3	3.4	3.5	-.09
		2	Some	32	11	629	10			
		3	Quite a bit	85	29	1,405	22			
		4	Very much	169	57	4,401	65			
			Total	294	100	6,639	100			
b. Appropriately citing the sources used in a paper or project	INL02b	1	Very little	16	6	205	4	3.3	3.4 **	-0.18 ▽
		2	Some	40	14	636	10			
		3	Quite a bit	79	27	1,671	26			
		4	Very much	156	53	4,112	60			
			Total	291	100	6,624	100			
c. Using scholarly or peer-reviewed sources in your course assignments	INL02c	1	Very little	22	8	321	5	3.1	3.3 ***	-0.27 ▽
		2	Some	49	17	796	13			
		3	Quite a bit	95	33	1,580	24			
		4	Very much	125	42	3,915	57			
			Total	291	100	6,612	100			
d. Questioning the quality of information sources	INL02d	1	Very little	31	10	566	9	2.9	3.0	-.08
		2	Some	64	22	1,424	22			
		3	Quite a bit	92	33	1,897	29			
		4	Very much	104	35	2,713	40			
			Total	291	100	6,600	100			
e. Using practices (terminology, methods, writing style, etc.) of a specific major or field of study	INL02e	1	Very little	21	7	361	6	3.1	3.2	-.08
		2	Some	54	18	1,179	18			
		3	Quite a bit	97	34	1,988	30			
		4	Very much	121	41	3,066	45			
			Total	293	100	6,594	100			
3. How much has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in using information effectively?										
	INL03	1	Very little	14	5	164	3	3.1	3.2	-.10
		2	Some	40	15	927	15			
		3	Quite a bit	121	42	2,546	38			
		4	Very much	117	39	2,995	44			
			Total	292	100	6,632	100			

First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	CCSU	CCSU	Info Lit Pub Master's	CCSU	Info Lit Pub Master's	CCSU	Info Lit Pub Master's			
INL01a	188	2.95	3.07	.06	.01	0.83	0.82	5,338	.054	-.14
INL01b	188	2.70	2.91	.06	.01	0.81	0.86	5,314	.001	-.25
INL01c	187	2.78	2.85	.07	.01	0.90	0.85	5,318	.302	-.08
INL01d	188	2.30	2.51	.07	.01	0.93	0.99	202	.003	-.21
INL01e	188	2.18	2.21	.07	.01	0.92	0.91	5,314	.681	-.03
INL01f	186	2.33	2.32	.06	.01	0.86	0.86	5,312	.958	.00
INL01g	186	2.39	2.43	.07	.01	0.91	0.91	5,311	.572	-.04
INL01h	186	2.25	2.30	.06	.01	0.88	0.92	5,302	.468	-.05
INL02a	185	3.45	3.56	.06	.01	0.75	0.70	196	.065	-.15
INL02b	184	3.35	3.45	.06	.01	0.79	0.74	5,301	.069	-.14
INL02c	185	3.11	3.29	.07	.01	0.93	0.84	5,300	.005	-.21
INL02d	184	3.01	3.11	.07	.01	0.89	0.90	5,293	.145	-.11
INL02e	184	2.86	2.90	.07	.01	0.93	0.96	5,273	.626	-.04
INL03	184	2.86	3.04	.06	.01	0.81	0.79	5,297	.004	-.22

Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	CCSU	CCSU	Info Lit Pub Master's	CCSU	Info Lit Pub Master's	CCSU	Info Lit Pub Master's			
INL01a	293	3.05	3.28	.05	.01	0.91	0.82	6,948	.000	-.29
INL01b	293	2.71	2.92	.06	.01	1.00	0.95	316	.001	-.22
INL01c	293	2.61	2.81	.06	.01	0.96	0.93	6,914	.000	-.22
INL01d	293	2.33	2.85	.06	.01	1.08	1.04	6,929	.000	-.50
INL01e	293	2.12	2.20	.06	.01	0.96	0.96	6,928	.152	-.09
INL01f	292	2.18	2.33	.06	.01	0.97	0.89	6,916	.005	-.17
INL01g	292	2.46	2.59	.06	.01	0.96	0.95	6,921	.027	-.13
INL01h	292	2.31	2.46	.06	.01	0.98	0.96	6,886	.012	-.15
INL02a	293	3.41	3.48	.05	.01	0.79	0.81	6,932	.152	-.09
INL02b	291	3.27	3.42	.05	.01	0.91	0.82	310	.006	-.18
INL02c	291	3.10	3.34	.06	.01	0.94	0.89	6,898	.000	-.27
INL02d	291	2.93	3.00	.06	.01	0.99	0.99	6,890	.210	-.08
INL02e	292	3.09	3.15	.05	.01	0.94	0.92	6,882	.210	-.08
INL03	291	3.15	3.23	.05	.01	0.84	0.81	6,919	.093	-.10

Endnotes

- a. Column percentages are weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. Counts are unweighted; column percentages cannot be replicated from counts.
- b. All statistics are weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Unless otherwise noted, statistical comparisons are two-tailed independent t -tests. Items with categorical response sets are left blank.
- c. These are the values used to calculate means. For the majority of items, these values match the codes in the data file and codebook.
- d. Effect size for independent t -tests uses Cohen's d ; z -tests use Cohen's h .
- e. Statistics are weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Categorical items are not listed.
- f. The 95% confidence interval for the population mean is equal to the sample mean plus or minus 1.96 times the standard error of the mean.
- g. A measure of the amount individual scores deviate from the mean of all the scores in the distribution.
- h. Degrees of freedom used to compute the t -tests. Values differ from N s due to weighting and whether equal variances were assumed.
- i. Statistical comparisons are two-tailed independent t -tests or z -tests. Statistical significance represents the probability that the difference between your students' mean and that of the students in the comparison group is due to chance.
- j. Statistical comparison uses z -test to compare the proportion who responded (depending on the item) "Done or in progress" or "Yes" with all who responded otherwise.
- k. Mean represents the proportion who responded (depending on the item) "Done or in progress" or "Yes."

Key to symbols:

- ▲ **Your students' average** was significantly higher ($p < .05$) with an effect size at least .3 in magnitude.
- △ **Your students' average** was significantly higher ($p < .05$) with an effect size less than .3 in magnitude.
- ▽ **Your students' average** was significantly lower ($p < .05$) with an effect size less than .3 in magnitude.
- ▼ **Your students' average** was significantly lower ($p < .05$) with an effect size at least .3 in magnitude.

Note: It is important to interpret the direction of differences relative to item wording and your institutional context.