

Library Guide

To Information Literacy



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References & Resources

Journal Articles on Information Literacy:

- De Paor, S., & Heravi, B. (2020). Information literacy and fake news: How the field of librarianship can help combat the epidemic of fake news. *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 46(5), 1022-18.
- Jones-Jang, S. M., Mortensen, T., & Liu, J. (2021). Does media literacy help identification of fake news? Information literacy helps, but other literacies don't. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 65(2), 371-388.

Libguides referenced to create the pamphlet and recommended for further reading:

- Madison College Libguide:
 - <https://libguides.madisoncollege.edu/infolitstudents>
- University of Fort Hare Libguide:
 - <https://ufh.za.libguides.com/infolit>
- Johns Hopkins University Libguide:
 - <https://guides.library.jhu.edu/evaluate>

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How to Teach it

When teaching Information Literacy to your children, start with the basic idea of how to find and evaluate information. Each skill can grow with more complexity as a student's informational need develops.

Let them choose some of the books you read for their story time and talk about the book.

- What is it about?
- Who wrote it?
- Who is the book written for?

When your child is ready to select their own book to read themselves, show them how to find books on topics that interest them. Help them evaluate whether or not the book is something that you need to read to them, read with them, or if they can read it on their own.



What is it?

Information literacy is an individual's ability to identify when information is needed and to find, evaluate, and apply the needed information.

1 Identify

- Understand your informational need and form a central question to ask.
- Define keywords that you can use in your search. To do that, you may need to start reading about your topic to get a better understanding of what it is or what you're searching for. Try starting with dictionaries, encyclopedias, or news stories if your topic is current.

2 Find

- Find credible sources that have information on your search topic.
- Your informational sources might include peer reviewed journals, primary sources, government or organization websites, books, magazine or newspaper articles, scholarly work, etc.
- Find and use multiple sources of information.
- Take notes about what information you find and where you found it. If you share the information later, you'll need to cite the source.



3 Evaluate

- Evaluate the sources by asking the following questions:
 - Relevance - Is this relevant to my question?
 - Authority - Is the author credible? Are they an expert in the specific field I'm researching?
 - Timeliness - is the information current or is updated information available elsewhere?
 - Purpose - What is the purpose of the source? Does the author or publisher have any bias or motive that may mean they are providing inaccurate representations of the information?
 - Audience - Who was this written for?
 - Accuracy - Was this source reviewed? Does the author provide the sources they used? Can I verify that the facts are correct using other credible, unbiased sources?
 - Scope - does my research fully answer the question I'm asking?
- After you assess your findings, go back to the "find" stage multiple times to get different viewpoints, check facts, or adjust your scope.

4 Apply

- Organize your information so it makes sense.
- Share what you learned with others.
- Avoid plagiarism by citing your sources.
- Avoid breaking copyright law. Do not duplicate or distribute work without the permission of the copyright holder.
- Now that you have an answer to your initial question, go back and ask more questions.

Why is it Important?

Information Literacy empowers individuals to have informed opinions about problems happening on the local, national, and international levels and in turn allows for more active and effective participation in the community (De Paor & Heravi, 2020).

The ability to correctly identify fake news stories is significantly increased with information literacy (Jones-Jang et al., 2021). Protect yourself and your family from misinformation by developing your information literacy skills.

