
NSSE 2014 Topical Module
Experiences with Information Literacy
California State University, San Bernardino

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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 'Information Literacy' column of this report.

Group label	Information Literacy
Date submitted	Not applicable; comparison group not customized.
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution did not customize this comparison group; the default group (all module participants) was used.
Group description	Default comparison group

'Information Literacy' institutions (N=81)

Abilene Christian University (Abilene, TX)	Mary Baldwin College (Staunton, VA)
Albright College (Reading, PA)	Maryland Institute College of Art (Baltimore, MD)
Beloit College (Beloit, WI)	Memorial University of Newfoundland (St. John's, NL)
Bethany College (Bethany, WV)	Mercy College (Dobbs Ferry, NY)
Brigham Young University (Provo, UT)	Mississippi University for Women (Columbus, MS)
Bryant University (Smithfield, RI)	Newbury College-Brookline (Brookline, MA)
California Institute of the Arts (Valencia, CA)	North Park University (Chicago, IL)
California Lutheran University (Thousand Oaks, CA)	Northwestern Oklahoma State University (Alva, OK)
California State Polytechnic University-Pomona (Pomona, CA)	Ohio University (Athens, OH)
Carlow University (Pittsburgh, PA)	Peru State College (Peru, NE)
Central Penn College (Summerdale, PA)	Pfeiffer University (Misenheimer, NC)
Claremont McKenna College (Claremont, CA)	Roanoke College (Salem, VA)
Clark University (Worcester, MA)	San Jose State University (San Jose, CA)
Clarke University (Dubuque, IA)	Simon Fraser University (Burnaby, BC)
Converse College (Spartanburg, SC)	Southwestern Adventist University (Keene, TX)
DePaul University (Chicago, IL)	St. Catherine University (Saint Paul, MN)
Eastern Connecticut State University (Willimantic, CT)	St. Thomas University (Fredericton, NB)
Elizabethtown College (Elizabethtown, PA)	SUNY Empire State College (Saratoga Springs, NY)
Georgian Court University (Lakewood, NJ)	Susquehanna University (Selinsgrove, PA)
Goucher College (Baltimore, MD)	The State University of New York at Potsdam (Potsdam, NY)
Guilford College (Greensboro, NC)	The University of New Orleans (New Orleans, LA)
Hawaii Pacific University (Honolulu, HI)	The University of Tennessee Martin (Martin, TN)
Howard University (Washington, DC)	Towson University (Towson, MD)
Illinois College (Jacksonville, IL)	United States Air Force Academy (USAFA, CO)
Juniata College (Huntingdon, PA)	United States Naval Academy (Annapolis, MD)
Kentucky Wesleyan College (Owensboro, KY)	Université de Montréal (Montreal, QC)
Lakehead University (Thunder Bay, ON)	Université de Sherbrooke (Sherbrooke, QC)
Lenoir-Rhyne University (Hickory, NC)	University of Baltimore (Baltimore, MD)
Lincoln Memorial University (Harrogate, TN)	University of Central Florida (Orlando, FL)
Longwood University (Farmville, VA)	University of Charleston (Charleston, WV)

'Information Literacy' institutions (N=81), continued

University of Evansville (Evansville, IN)
University of Louisiana at Lafayette (Lafayette, LA)
University of Maine at Machias (Machias, ME)
University of Massachusetts Amherst (Amherst, MA)
University of Massachusetts Boston (Boston, MA)
University of Montevallo (Montevallo, AL)
University of Northern Iowa (Cedar Falls, IA)
University of Puerto Rico in Ponce (Ponce, PR)
University of San Francisco (San Francisco, CA)
Vanguard University of Southern California (Costa Mesa, CA)
Viterbo University (La Crosse, WI)
Wabash College (Crawfordsville, IN)
Washington State University (Pullman, WA)
West Texas A&M University (Canyon, TX)
West Virginia Wesleyan College (Buckhannon, WV)
Westmont College (Santa Barbara, CA)
Whitman College (Walla Walla, WA)
William Paterson University of New Jersey (Wayne, NJ)
Wilson College (Chambersburg, PA)
Wingate University (Wingate, NC)
Worcester State University (Worcester, MA)

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				CSUSB		Information Literacy		CSUSB	Information Literacy	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, Web site, etc.) other than required course readings	INL01a	1	Never	5	2	469	2	3.3	3.2 *	.11
		2	Sometimes	60	16	4,040	19			
		3	Often	109	30	7,545	35			
		4	Very often	192	51	9,741	44			
		Total		366	100	21,795	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	3	1,841	8	3.1	2.9 ***	.28
		2	Sometimes	73	21	6,052	27			
		3	Often	132	36	7,684	36			
		4	Very often	150	39	6,191	29			
		Total		363	100	21,768	100			
c. Received feedback from an instructor that improved your use of information resources (source selection, proper citation, etc.)	INL01c	1	Never	6	2	1,884	8	3.1	2.8 ***	.33
		2	Sometimes	83	22	6,687	30			
		3	Often	142	41	7,882	37			
		4	Very often	132	35	5,273	25			
		Total		363	100	21,726	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	72	20	3,602	17	2.6	2.6	.06
		2	Sometimes	92	25	7,210	33			
		3	Often	97	26	6,028	28			
		4	Very often	105	28	4,897	23			
		Total		366	100	21,737	100			
e. Decided not to use an information source in a course assignment due to its questionable quality	INL01e	1	Never	124	34	4,975	23	2.1	2.3 *	-.14
		2	Sometimes	118	32	8,529	39			
		3	Often	73	19	5,500	25			
		4	Very often	50	14	2,716	12			
		Total		365	100	21,720	100			
f. Changed the focus of a paper or project based on information you found while researching the topic	INL01f	1	Never	57	15	3,627	17	2.4	2.4	.04
		2	Sometimes	162	46	9,131	42			
		3	Often	83	22	6,119	28			
		4	Very often	61	17	2,815	13			
		Total		363	100	21,692	100			
g. Looked for a reference that was cited in something you read	INL01g	1	Never	51	14	3,838	17	2.6	2.4 **	.15
		2	Sometimes	136	37	8,214	38			
		3	Often	89	25	6,266	29			
		4	Very often	87	23	3,380	16			
		Total		363	100	21,698	100			
h. Identified how a book, article, or creative work has contributed to a field of study	INL01h	1	Never	78	21	4,340	20	2.4	2.4	.07
		2	Sometimes	127	35	8,186	38			
		3	Often	80	23	5,968	28			
		4	Very often	78	21	3,135	15			
		Total		363	100	21,629	100			

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				CSUSB		Information Literacy		CSUSB	Information Literacy	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	10	3	368	2	3.7	3.6 ***	.21
		2	Some	13	3	1,608	8			
		3	Quite a bit	37	11	4,652	21			
		4	Very much	305	83	15,164	69			
		Total		365	100	21,792	100			
b. Appropriately citing the sources used in a paper or project	INL02b	1	Very little	8	3	522	2	3.6	3.4 ***	.21
		2	Some	26	7	2,145	10			
		3	Quite a bit	63	18	5,900	28			
		4	Very much	267	73	13,163	60			
		Total		364	100	21,730	100			
c. Using scholarly or peer-reviewed sources in your course assignments	INL02c	1	Very little	17	6	1,118	5	3.4	3.2 ***	.20
		2	Some	45	12	3,323	16			
		3	Quite a bit	69	19	6,394	30			
		4	Very much	231	63	10,833	49			
		Total		362	100	21,668	100			
d. Questioning the quality of information sources	INL02d	1	Very little	21	6	1,377	7	3.3	3.1 ***	.20
		2	Some	54	16	4,383	21			
		3	Quite a bit	87	24	6,702	31			
		4	Very much	199	54	9,168	41			
		Total		361	100	21,630	100			
e. Using practices (terminology, methods, writing style, etc.) of a specific major or field of study	INL02e	1	Very little	37	10	1,834	9	3.0	3.0	.09
		2	Some	76	22	5,162	24			
		3	Quite a bit	74	21	6,369	30			
		4	Very much	171	47	8,165	37			
		Total		358	100	21,530	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	8	2	596	3	3.3	3.1 ***	.25
		2	Some	43	12	4,014	19			
		3	Quite a bit	159	44	10,068	47			
		4	Very much	155	42	7,005	31			
		Total		365	100	21,683	100			

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

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				CSUSB		Information Literacy		CSUSB	Information Literacy	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, Web site, etc.) other than required course readings	INL01a	1	Never	9	1	480	2	3.5	3.4 ***	.15
		2	Sometimes	81	10	3,917	14			
		3	Often	215	26	7,968	28			
		4	Very often	540	63	16,446	56			
			Total	845	100	28,811	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	35	4	2,276	8	3.1	2.9 ***	.24
		2	Sometimes	178	21	7,706	27			
		3	Often	258	31	9,137	32			
		4	Very often	379	44	9,665	33			
			Total	850	100	28,784	100			
c. Received feedback from an instructor that improved your use of information resources (source selection, proper citation, etc.)	INL01c	1	Never	50	7	2,672	9	2.9	2.8 ***	.18
		2	Sometimes	228	27	8,752	31			
		3	Often	277	33	9,604	34			
		4	Very often	294	34	7,679	26			
			Total	849	100	28,707	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	55	7	3,207	12	3.1	2.9 ***	.24
		2	Sometimes	155	19	7,122	25			
		3	Often	235	28	7,503	26			
		4	Very often	401	46	10,899	37			
			Total	846	100	28,731	100			
e. Decided not to use an information source in a course assignment due to its questionable quality	INL01e	1	Never	276	32	6,794	24	2.1	2.3 ***	-.13
		2	Sometimes	300	36	11,216	39			
		3	Often	158	19	6,503	22			
		4	Very often	115	14	4,221	14			
			Total	849	100	28,734	100			
f. Changed the focus of a paper or project based on information you found while researching the topic	INL01f	1	Never	132	16	4,466	16	2.4	2.4	.01
		2	Sometimes	369	43	12,203	43			
		3	Often	206	24	7,695	26			
		4	Very often	138	16	4,336	15			
			Total	845	100	28,700	100			
g. Looked for a reference that was cited in something you read	INL01g	1	Never	91	10	3,550	12	2.7	2.6 **	.09
		2	Sometimes	267	32	9,924	35			
		3	Often	276	33	8,733	31			
		4	Very often	209	24	6,499	22			
			Total	843	100	28,706	100			
h. Identified how a book, article, or creative work has contributed to a field of study	INL01h	1	Never	140	16	4,831	17	2.6	2.5 **	.10
		2	Sometimes	261	31	10,353	36			
		3	Often	250	30	7,955	28			
		4	Very often	196	22	5,515	19			
			Total	847	100	28,654	100			

NSSE 2014 Experiences with Information Literacy

Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons California State University, San Bernardino

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				CSUSB		Information Literacy		CSUSB	Information Literacy	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	10	1	1,063	4	3.7	3.5 ***	.32 ▲
		2	Some	44	6	2,961	10			
		3	Quite a bit	100	12	6,386	22			
		4	Very much	691	81	18,408	64			
			Total	845	100	28,818	100			
b. Appropriately citing the sources used in a paper or project	INL02b	1	Very little	19	3	1,132	4	3.6	3.4 ***	.23 ▲
		2	Some	66	8	3,398	12			
		3	Quite a bit	145	18	7,406	26			
		4	Very much	614	71	16,764	58			
			Total	844	100	28,700	100			
c. Using scholarly or peer-reviewed sources in your course assignments	INL02c	1	Very little	32	4	1,765	6	3.5	3.3 ***	.25 ▲
		2	Some	76	9	3,847	14			
		3	Quite a bit	153	19	7,378	26			
		4	Very much	581	67	15,685	53			
			Total	842	100	28,675	100			
d. Questioning the quality of information sources	INL02d	1	Very little	74	9	2,545	9	3.1	3.0 ***	.16 ▲
		2	Some	142	17	6,255	22			
		3	Quite a bit	196	24	8,261	29			
		4	Very much	432	50	11,550	39			
			Total	844	100	28,611	100			
e. Using practices (terminology, methods, writing style, etc.) of a specific major or field of study	INL02e	1	Very little	46	6	1,824	7	3.3	3.1 ***	.17 ▲
		2	Some	117	14	5,292	19			
		3	Quite a bit	203	25	8,351	29			
		4	Very much	470	55	12,999	45			
			Total	836	100	28,466	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	12	1	477	2	3.5	3.3 ***	.22 ▲
		2	Some	74	9	3,416	13			
		3	Quite a bit	284	33	11,354	40			
		4	Very much	482	57	13,498	45			
			Total	852	100	28,745	100			

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

First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	CSUSB	CSUSB	Information Literacy	CSUSB	Information Literacy	CSUSB	Information Literacy	Comparisons with: Information Literacy		
INL01a	364	3.30	3.21	.04	.01	0.82	0.82	9,176	.036	.11
INL01b	361	3.11	2.86	.04	.01	0.85	0.93	396	.000	.28
INL01c	361	3.09	2.78	.04	.01	0.81	0.91	398	.000	.33
INL01d	364	2.62	2.56	.06	.01	1.10	1.01	389	.315	.06
INL01e	363	2.12	2.26	.05	.01	1.04	0.95	388	.013	-.14
INL01f	361	2.40	2.36	.05	.01	0.94	0.91	9,130	.443	.04
INL01g	361	2.58	2.44	.05	.01	1.00	0.95	388	.008	.15
INL01h	361	2.44	2.37	.06	.01	1.05	0.96	386	.202	.07
INL021	363	3.73	3.58	.04	.01	0.67	0.71	396	.000	.21
INL02b	362	3.61	3.45	.04	.01	0.73	0.77	395	.000	.21
INL02c	360	3.41	3.23	.05	.01	0.90	0.90	9,118	.000	.20
INL02d	358	3.27	3.08	.05	.01	0.93	0.94	9,107	.000	.20
INL02e	357	3.05	2.96	.06	.01	1.05	0.98	382	.118	.09
INL03	363	3.25	3.06	.04	.01	0.76	0.79	9,126	.000	.25

NSSE 2014 Experiences with Information Literacy

Detailed Statistics^e

California State University, San Bernardino

Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	CSUSB	CSUSB	Information Literacy	CSUSB	Information Literacy	CSUSB	Information Literacy	Comparisons with: Information Literacy		
INL01a	843	3.51	3.39	.02	.01	0.72	0.79	933	.000	.15
INL01b	849	3.14	2.91	.03	.01	0.90	0.95	19,791	.000	.24
INL01c	846	2.94	2.77	.03	.01	0.93	0.95	925	.000	.18
INL01d	844	3.13	2.88	.03	.01	0.96	1.04	933	.000	.24
INL01e	847	2.14	2.27	.03	.01	1.01	0.98	19,758	.000	-.13
INL01f	843	2.40	2.39	.03	.01	0.95	0.93	19,733	.729	.01
INL01g	841	2.71	2.62	.03	.01	0.95	0.96	19,725	.008	.09
INL01h	845	2.58	2.48	.03	.01	1.01	0.99	19,698	.005	.10
INL021	843	3.73	3.47	.02	.01	0.62	0.81	977	.000	.32
INL02b	843	3.58	3.38	.03	.01	0.75	0.85	939	.000	.23
INL02c	840	3.49	3.27	.03	.01	0.83	0.93	934	.000	.25
INL02d	843	3.14	2.98	.03	.01	1.01	1.00	917	.000	.16
INL02e	835	3.28	3.12	.03	.01	0.92	0.95	19,566	.000	.17
INL03	850	3.45	3.29	.02	.01	0.71	0.76	19,749	.000	.22

Endnotes

- a. Column percentages are weighted by gender 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 gender 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*.
- e. Statistics are weighted by gender 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. Statistical significance represents the probability that the difference between your students' mean and that of the comparison group is due to chance.

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.