

“Information literacy is the set of integrated abilities encompassing the reflective discovery of information, the understanding of how information is produced and valued, and the use of information in creating new knowledge and participating ethically in communities of learning.”¹ While future means and methods of assessing information cannot be predicted, information literacy will grow in importance as information proliferates in volume, scope, and on a world-wide scale. Information literacy is a key outcome of a college education as recognized by accreditation agencies² and employers.³ The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) has developed a [Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education](#) based on a cluster of six interconnected core concepts that individuals will learn throughout their college education.

An information literate individual has a conceptual understanding of the following:

- [Authority is Constructed and Conceptual](#)
- [Information Creation as a Process](#)
- [Information has Value](#)
- [Research as Inquiry](#)
- [Scholarship as Conversation](#)
- [Searching as Strategic Exploration](#)⁴

In support of the UW-Colleges’ Mission, the UW-Colleges libraries help students develop the information literacy skills needed to be successful in their educational careers. Information literacy fosters scholarly activity, promotes lifelong learning and responsible citizenship in support of the Wisconsin Idea. It is an integral part of the liberal arts education and tradition. It embodies this tradition with ongoing, innovative instruction and cross-discipline collaboration that incorporates a variety of resources and formats and reflects the information needs of each discipline or profession.

Information literacy is a primary goal of the UW-Colleges libraries. This is achieved through active and intentional reference services and classroom instruction, in collaboration with faculty or instructional staff members across a wide range of disciplines. Library support for information literacy instruction includes, but is not limited to, individualized research sessions for classes; customized, web-based research guides and direct assistance to users, both in person and on-line.

Adopted and approved March 15, 2017 by the UW Colleges Library Council

¹ Association of College and Research Libraries, *Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education*.

² The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

³ http://www.aacu.org/sites/default/files/files/LEAP/2009_EmployerSurvey.pdf

⁴ *Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education*