INFORMATION LITERACY SKILLS

What is Information Literacy

▶ Information Literacy is knowing when and why you need information, where to find it, how to evaluate, use and communicate in an ethical manner (ALA 2005). Information Literacy training at LSU equips students and researchers with knowledge and skills to identify, retrieve, evaluate, and ethically use and communicate information from various information resources.

Importance of Information Literacy Skills training

It equips students or researchers with:

► Skills which will enhance the quality of research skills and expand career opportunities in the information economy

► Search strategies to locate and access relevant information, this is the use of the Boolean logic operators which are AND, OR, NOT

► Skills to analyse and critically evaluate research findings

► Skills to identify the legal and ethical issues relating to the use of information

► Skills on citation and referencing, thus acknowledging other people's work

- Above all information literacy is a basic human right in the digital world and promotes social inclusion of all nations (The Alexandria Proclamation developed at a colloquium sponsored by UNESCO, 2006).

An information literate individual should be able to:

▶ Recognise the need for information timely

▶ Formulate questions based on information needs

▶ Identify potential sources of information

▶ Develop successful and effective search strategies

▶ Access various sources of information independently and efficiently

▶ Evaluate information obtained meaningfully

▶ Organise information effectively

▶ Integrate new information into an existing body of knowledge

▶ Use information critically

Information Literacy at LSU

- Information literacy promotes lifelong learning
- IL supports the university mission of teaching, learning and research
- IL programme equips students with the 21st century research skills
- The Library's mission is to develop information literacy skills and knowledge throughout the university community.

Conclusion

▶ Librarians are working closely with students and researchers to provide skills to effectively and efficiently retrieve and use the information available from the large pool of resources.

▶ **For further information on Information Literacy use the ILS Module available in the library.**

References

- Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) 2000. Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education. http://www.ala.org/acrl/standards/informationliteracycompetency

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- Garner, SD., 2005. High-Level Colloquium on Information Literacy and Lifelong Learning Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria, Egypt, UNESCO. http://w3.ifla.org/files/assets/information-literacy/publications/high-level-colloquium-2005.pdf