

What is Information Literacy?

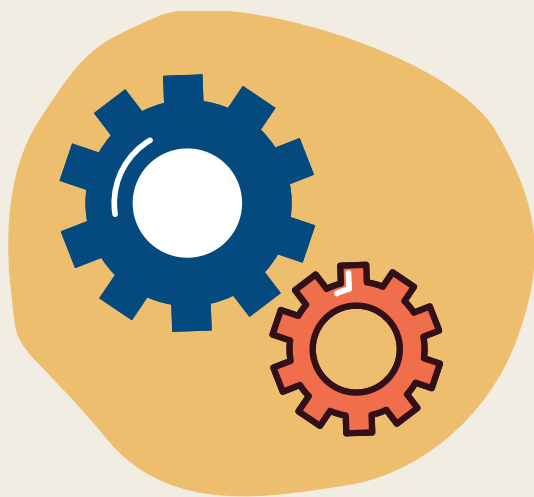
The reflective discovery of information

When you find a piece of information, take a moment to reflect on it and its source: Where did you find this information? Who is/are the author(s)? When was it published? Does the info seem accurate? What is its purpose? These questions can help you to determine the quality and validity of the information before accepting it as an authoritative source.



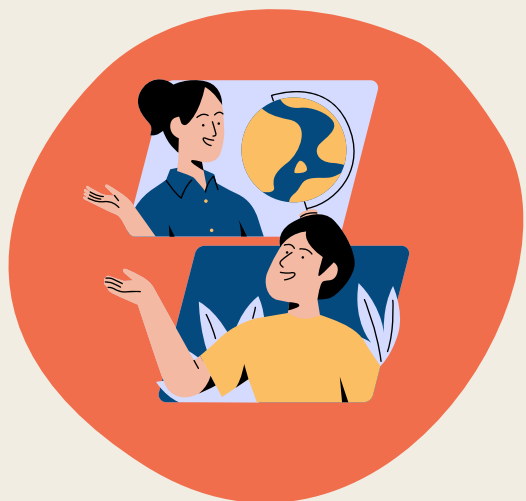
Understanding how information is produced

Like virtually every other part of our lives, information is produced and distributed via industry. Media organizations treat information as a product, which is used or consumed by the public. Issues that surround information production and distribution include: contextualization, accessibility, personal and institutional biases, political leanings, and information overload.



The use of info in creating knowledge and participating ethically in communities of learning

You use the information that you gather to create knowledge, both for yourself and to share with others. Having good and accurate information is necessary for formulating your own thoughts: put simply, we should seek out as much accurate information as needed in order to formulate our own ideas on important matters.



Why is information literacy important?

With the large number forms of media readily available, media literacy is a vital tool for evaluating the information you receive. Knowing what media is accurate and reliable, and what you can reasonably contextualize, is necessary for your engagement in both academic and civic life. Being a critical consumer of media requires constant work on all of our parts so that we can recognize and avoid false, inaccurate, and harmful information.

How to improve your information literacy

The **CRAAP** test is an excellent tool for evaluating the quality of your information source. The test asks you to consider the **C**urrency, **R**eliability, **A**ccuracy, **A**uthority, and **P**urpose of a source in order to determine if it is trustworthy.

SOURCES

BLAKESLEE, SARAH. THE CRAAP TEST [HTTPS://COMMONS.EMICH.EDU/LOEXQUARTERLY/VOL31/ISS3/4/](https://commons.emich.edu/loexquarterly/vol31/iss3/4/framework-for-information-literacy-for-higher-education)
FRAMEWORK FOR INFORMATION LITERACY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
[HTTP://WWW.ALA.ORG/ACRL/SITES/ALA.ORG.ACRL/FILES/CONTENT/ISSUES/INFOLIT/FRAMEWORK1.PDF](http://www.ala.org/acrl/sites/ala.org.acrl/files/content/issues/infolit/framework1.pdf)
MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY IN HIGHER EDUCATION : EDUCATING THE EDUCATORS, EDITED BY DIANNE OBERG, AND SIRI INGVALDSEN, ELSEVIER SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, 2016.