What is Information Literacy?

According to the Association of College and Research Libraries and the American Association of Higher Education, an information literate individual is able to:

- Determine the extent of information needed.
- Access the needed information effectively and efficiently.
- Evaluate information and its sources critically.
- Use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose.
- Understand the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information
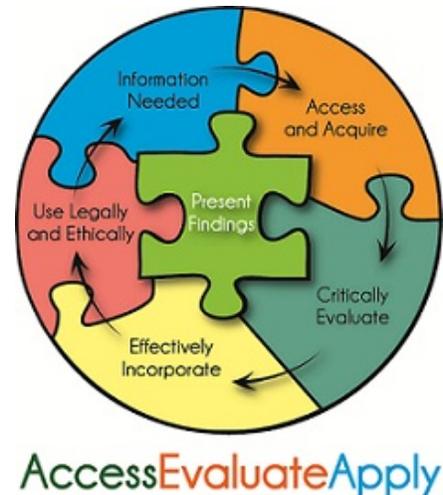- Access and use information ethically and legally.

Image: http://yvcclibrary.us/Yakima/il.htm

How Can Information Literacy Be Taught as a Course?

"In addition to course-integrated offerings and guides, some institutions offer for-credit information literacy courses. Iowa State University"s Library 160 course is by far one of the oldest information literacy courses in the United States. In its nearly 100-year history, the course has undergone many curriculum transformations, from an introductory library session to now shaping its core outcomes according to ACRL's Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education. The required 1-credit hour course is structured with readings and quizzes that cover information needs, web resources and evaluation, library resources, scholarly and popular articles, how to work with the library's databases, and academic integrity and plagiarism. In today's digital environment, social responsibility in information use is more important than ever. Librarians instruct students in proper citation techniques and ethical retrieval methods. They help college students hone the critical and problem-solving skills needed to survive and thrive in a digital world. Such activities will prepare students for future academic success and set the stage for lifelong learning habits." From the Report of the Office for Information Technology Policy's Digital Literacy Task Force (2013) available at http://www.districtdispatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/2012_OITP_digilitreport_1_22_13.pdf

Additional Resources

The Association of College and Research Libraries (2000). *Information literacy competency standards for higher education.* Chicago, IL: The Association of College and Research Libraries. Retrieved October 16, 2008, from http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/standards/standards.pdf**r**

For more information, please contact: Patrick Newell, Associate University Librarian for Information Technology and Electronic Resources at pnewell@csufresno.edu or (559) 278-5182