

2014 Topical Module: Experiences with Information Literacy

Profile of Participating Institutions and Respondents and All Bachelor's-Granting U.S. Institutions and Students

Topical modules are short sets of questions on a topic related to current issues in higher education and student engagement that may be appended to the core survey. The **Experiences with Information Literacy** module asks students about their use of information and how much their instructors emphasized the proper use of information sources. In 2014, 76 U.S. institutions elected to append these items to the core survey. Of these, 74 belonged to one of the eight Carnegie classifications shown in the table below.^a

The institutions and respondents participating in a given module are only a subset of all NSSE participating institutions and respondents. The table below displays the characteristics for module participants alongside NSSE 2014 participants as well as all bachelor's-granting U.S. institutions and students (all limited to the eight indicated Carnegie Classification categories).

	Institutions			Students		
	Information Literacy Module (%)	NSSE 2014 (%)	U.S. ^b (%)	Information Literacy Module (%)	NSSE 2014 (%)	U.S. ^b (%)
Carnegie Basic Classification^c						
Research Universities (very high research activity)	4	4	6	24	15	22
Research Universities (high research activity)	9	7	6	18	13	15
Doctoral/Research Universities	3	5	5	4	7	9
Master's Colleges and Universities (larger programs)	27	29	25	26	33	31
Master's Colleges and Universities (medium programs)	11	13	11	6	10	8
Master's Colleges and Universities (smaller programs)	8	7	8	4	4	4
Baccalaureate Colleges—Arts & Sciences	22	17	16	12	10	5
Baccalaureate Colleges—Diverse Fields	16	18	23	5	8	7
Control						
Public	39	43	34	63	63	65
Private	61	57	66	37	37	35
Undergraduate enrollment						
Fewer than 1,000	12	11	18	2	3	2
1,000 – 2,499	38	32	33	16	16	10
2,500 – 4,999	18	21	19	14	15	12
5,000 – 9,999	12	19	14	9	22	18
10,000 – 19,999	11	11	10	14	23	25
20,000 or more	9	6	6	45	22	33

a. All numbers are unweighted and based on U.S. postsecondary institutions that award bachelor's degrees and belong to one of the eight Carnegie Classification categories in the table. Totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

b. U.S. percentages are based on the 2012 IPEDS Institutional Characteristics file.

c. For information on the Carnegie Foundation's Basic Classification, see classifications.carnegiefoundation.org

NSSE 2014 Topical Modules

U.S. Grand Frequencies by Class and Sex

Experiences with Information Literacy

First-Year Students

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Response options	First-Year Students				Seniors							
			Female		Male		Total		Female		Male		Total	
			Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
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	Never	182	2	110	2	292	2	208	1	217	2	425	2
		Sometimes	2,034	17	1,123	18	3,157	18	1,854	12	1,734	17	3,588	14
		Often	3,747	33	2,482	40	6,229	36	4,101	26	3,196	31	7,297	29
		Very often	5,285	48	2,506	40	7,791	45	9,413	61	5,181	50	14,594	56
		Total	11,248	100	6,221	100	17,469	100	15,576	100	10,328	100	25,904	100
b. Worked on a paper or project that had multiple smaller assignments such as an outline, annotated bibliography, rough draft, etc.	INL01b	Never	512	4	251	4	763	4	1,024	7	769	8	1,793	7
		Sometimes	2,882	25	1,620	25	4,502	25	3,690	23	2,993	28	6,683	26
		Often	4,017	35	2,582	41	6,599	38	4,763	30	3,518	35	8,281	32
		Very often	3,836	36	1,758	29	5,594	33	6,087	40	3,045	30	9,132	35
		Total	11,247	100	6,211	100	17,458	100	15,523	100	10,303	100	25,826	100
c. Received feedback from an instructor that improved your use of information resources (source selection, proper citation, etc.)	INL01c	Never	652	5	323	5	975	5	1,130	7	967	9	2,097	8
		Sometimes	3,078	27	1,683	27	4,761	27	4,292	28	3,185	31	7,477	29
		Often	4,174	37	2,578	42	6,752	39	5,139	33	3,644	36	8,783	34
		Very often	3,315	31	1,613	27	4,928	29	4,962	32	2,507	24	7,469	29
		Total	11,219	100	6,197	100	17,416	100	15,528	100	10,310	100	25,838	100
d. Completed an assignment that used the library's electronic collection of articles, books, and journals (JSTOR, EBSCO, LexisNexis, ProQuest, etc.)	INL01d	Never	1,768	16	953	15	2,721	15	1,364	9	1,487	15	2,851	12
		Sometimes	3,640	31	2,210	35	5,850	33	3,444	22	3,014	29	6,458	25
		Often	3,110	28	1,827	29	4,937	28	4,050	26	2,817	27	6,867	27
		Very often	2,706	25	1,214	20	3,920	23	6,670	43	2,992	29	9,662	36
		Total	11,224	100	6,204	100	17,428	100	15,530	100	10,306	100	25,836	100
e. Decided not to use an information source in a course assignment due to its questionable quality	INL01e	Never	2,810	26	1,236	21	4,046	24	4,044	27	2,327	23	6,371	25
		Sometimes	4,327	38	2,532	41	6,859	39	5,768	37	4,211	41	9,979	39
		Often	2,689	24	1,656	26	4,345	25	3,326	21	2,386	23	5,712	22
		Very often	1,390	13	778	12	2,168	12	2,392	15	1,382	13	3,774	14
		Total	11,216	100	6,202	100	17,418	100	15,514	100	10,297	100	25,811	100
f. Changed the focus of a paper or project based on information you found while researching the topic	INL01f	Never	1,744	16	895	15	2,639	16	2,306	15	1,739	18	4,045	16
		Sometimes	4,811	43	2,590	42	7,401	43	6,610	43	4,446	44	11,056	43
		Often	3,070	27	1,890	29	4,960	28	4,047	26	2,742	26	6,789	26
		Very often	1,576	15	821	13	2,397	14	2,551	16	1,370	13	3,921	15
		Total	11,201	100	6,196	100	17,397	100	15,508	100	10,309	100	25,817	100
g. Looked for a reference that was cited in something you read	INL01g	Never	2,076	18	840	13	2,916	16	1,997	13	1,252	12	3,249	13
		Sometimes	4,222	37	2,354	38	6,576	37	5,299	34	3,632	36	8,931	35
		Often	3,038	27	2,030	33	5,068	30	4,514	29	3,320	32	7,834	31
		Very often	1,862	17	972	16	2,834	17	3,698	24	2,105	20	5,803	22
		Total	11,198	100	6,196	100	17,394	100	15,495	100	10,280	100	25,775	100
h. Identified how a book, article, or creative work has contributed to a field of study	INL01h	Never	2,384	21	1,050	17	3,434	20	2,578	17	1,773	17	4,351	17
		Sometimes	4,236	37	2,377	38	6,613	38	5,413	35	3,817	37	9,230	36
		Often	2,811	25	1,859	30	4,670	27	4,176	27	2,937	29	7,113	28
		Very often	1,735	16	887	15	2,622	15	3,328	22	1,753	17	5,081	19
		Total	11,166	100	6,173	100	17,339	100	15,567	100	10,342	100	25,909	100

Note: Results weighted by institution-reported sex, enrollment status, and institution size. Counts are not weighted.

NSSE 2014 Topical Modules

U.S. Grand Frequencies by Class and Sex

Experiences with Information Literacy

First-Year Students

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Response options	Female		Male		Total		Female		Male		Total	
			Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
2. During the current school year, how much have your instructors emphasized the following?														
a. Not plagiarizing another author's work	INL02a	Very little	162	1	132	2	294	2	437	3	455	4	892	3
		Some	696	6	506	9	1,202	7	1,238	7	1,241	11	2,479	9
		Quite a bit	2,097	18	1,400	22	3,497	20	2,877	18	2,552	24	5,429	21
		Very much	8,292	75	4,181	67	12,473	71	11,015	72	6,094	61	17,109	67
		Total	11,247	100	6,219	100	17,466	100	15,567	100	10,342	100	25,909	100
b. Appropriately citing the sources used in a paper or project	INL02b	Very little	180	2	139	2	319	2	405	3	542	5	947	4
		Some	915	8	642	11	1,557	9	1,360	9	1,515	14	2,875	11
		Quite a bit	2,715	24	1,788	30	4,503	26	3,381	21	2,972	29	6,353	25
		Very much	7,405	67	3,634	57	11,039	63	10,363	68	5,273	52	15,636	60
		Total	11,215	100	6,203	100	17,418	100	15,509	100	10,302	100	25,811	100
c. Using scholarly or peer-reviewed sources in your course assignments	INL02c	Very little	457	4	232	4	689	4	727	5	779	8	1,506	6
		Some	1,533	14	1,005	17	2,538	15	1,666	11	1,684	16	3,350	13
		Quite a bit	3,026	26	1,982	32	5,008	29	3,388	21	3,002	30	6,390	25
		Very much	6,167	56	2,962	47	9,129	52	9,716	63	4,819	46	14,535	55
		Total	11,183	100	6,181	100	17,364	100	15,497	100	10,284	100	25,781	100
d. Questioning the quality of information sources	INL02d	Very little	644	6	336	6	980	6	1,239	8	1,036	11	2,275	9
		Some	2,099	19	1,289	21	3,388	20	2,990	19	2,527	25	5,517	22
		Quite a bit	3,196	28	2,030	34	5,226	31	4,070	26	3,110	30	7,180	28
		Very much	5,220	47	2,525	40	7,745	44	7,152	47	3,605	35	10,757	41
		Total	11,159	100	6,180	100	17,339	100	15,451	100	10,278	100	25,729	100
e. Using practices (terminology, methods, writing style, etc.) of a specific major or field of study	INL02e	Very little	973	9	435	8	1,408	8	809	6	671	7	1,480	6
		Some	2,591	23	1,444	23	4,035	23	2,432	16	2,061	20	4,493	18
		Quite a bit	2,965	26	2,005	33	4,970	29	4,121	26	3,229	32	7,350	29
		Very much	4,569	41	2,257	37	6,826	39	8,012	52	4,254	41	12,266	47
		Total	11,098	100	6,141	100	17,239	100	15,374	100	10,215	100	25,589	100
3. How much has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in using information effectively?														
	INL03	Very little	251	2	183	3	434	3	193	1	226	3	419	2
		Some	1,923	17	1,123	19	3,046	18	1,618	11	1,409	15	3,027	13
		Quite a bit	5,092	45	2,772	46	7,864	46	5,926	38	3,917	39	9,843	39
		Very much	3,933	35	2,098	32	6,031	33	7,805	49	4,755	44	12,560	47
		Total	11,199	100	6,176	100	17,375	100	15,542	100	10,307	100	25,849	100

Note: Results weighted by institution-reported sex, enrollment status, and institution size. Counts are not weighted.

NSSE 2014 Topical Modules

U.S. Grand Means and Standard Deviations by Class and Sex

Experiences with Information Literacy

First-Year Students

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Female		Male		Total		Female		Male		Total	
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
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	3.27	.80	3.19	.79	3.23	.80	3.47	.75	3.29	.82	3.39	.79
b. Worked on a paper or project that had multiple smaller assignments such as an outline, annotated bibliography, rough draft, etc.	INL01b	3.03	.88	2.95	.84	2.99	.87	3.03	.95	2.86	.93	2.95	.94
c. Received feedback from an instructor that improved your use of information resources (source selection, proper citation, etc.)	INL01c	2.93	.89	2.90	.85	2.92	.87	2.90	.94	2.75	.93	2.83	.94
d. Completed an assignment that used the library's electronic collection of articles, books, and journals (JSTOR, EBSCO, LexisNexis, ProQuest, etc.)	INL01d	2.63	1.02	2.54	.98	2.59	1.01	3.03	1.00	2.70	1.04	2.88	1.03
e. Decided not to use an information source in a course assignment due to its questionable quality	INL01e	2.23	.97	2.29	.94	2.26	.96	2.24	1.02	2.27	.96	2.25	.99
f. Changed the focus of a paper or project based on information you found while researching the topic	INL01f	2.40	.92	2.40	.90	2.40	.91	2.43	.94	2.34	.91	2.39	.93
g. Looked for a reference that was cited in something you read	INL01g	2.44	.98	2.52	.92	2.48	.95	2.64	.98	2.60	.94	2.62	.96
h. Identified how a book, article, or creative work has contributed to a field of study	INL01h	2.36	.99	2.42	.94	2.39	.97	2.53	1.01	2.45	.97	2.50	.99
2. During the current school year, how much have your instructors emphasized the following?													
a. Not plagiarizing another author's work	INL02a	3.66	.66	3.54	.75	3.60	.70	3.59	.74	3.42	.84	3.51	.79
b. Appropriately citing the sources used in a paper or project	INL02b	3.55	.71	3.42	.77	3.50	.74	3.54	.76	3.27	.89	3.42	.83
c. Using scholarly or peer-reviewed sources in your course assignments	INL02c	3.33	.87	3.22	.86	3.29	.87	3.43	.86	3.14	.96	3.30	.92
d. Questioning the quality of information sources	INL02d	3.16	.93	3.08	.91	3.12	.92	3.11	.99	2.89	1.00	3.01	1.00
e. Using practices (terminology, methods, writing style, etc.) of a specific major or field of study	INL02e	3.00	1.01	2.98	.95	2.99	.98	3.25	.92	3.07	.94	3.17	.93
3. How much has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in using information effectively?													
	INL03	3.12	.78	3.07	.80	3.10	.79	3.36	.73	3.24	.79	3.30	.76

Note: Results weighted by institution-reported sex, enrollment status, and institution size. For variable ranges, see codebook.