

## 2015 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 2015, 57 U.S. institutions elected to append these items to the core survey. Of these, 52 belonged to one of the eight Carnegie classifications shown in the table below.<sup>a</sup>

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 2015 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 2015  (%)	U.S. <sup>b</sup>  (%)	Information Literacy Module  (%)	NSSE 2015  (%)	U.S. <sup>b</sup>  (%)
<b>Carnegie Basic Classification<sup>c</sup></b>						
Research Universities (very high research activity)	6	4	7	19	14	23
Research Universities (high research activity)	10	9	6	12	19	15
Doctoral/Research Universities	8	6	5	8	7	8
Master's Colleges and Universities (larger programs)	37	32	25	39	36	31
Master's Colleges and Universities (medium programs)	12	11	11	9	7	7
Master's Colleges and Universities (smaller programs)	8	5	7	4	3	4
Baccalaureate Colleges—Arts & Sciences	2	15	16	<1	7	5
Baccalaureate Colleges—Diverse Fields	19	18	23	9	8	7
<b>Control</b>						
Public	48	38	34	73	61	66
Private	52	62	66	27	39	34
<b>Undergraduate enrollment</b>						
Fewer than 1,000	10	13	20	1	3	2
1,000 – 2,499	21	31	33	9	14	10
2,500 – 4,999	25	21	17	18	15	12
5,000 – 9,999	29	18	14	33	21	19
10,000 – 19,999	12	11	9	23	22	24
20,000 or more	4	6	6	16	25	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 2013 IPEDS Institutional Characteristics file.

c. For information on the Carnegie Foundation's Basic Classification, see [carnegieclassifications.iu.edu](http://carnegieclassifications.iu.edu)

# NSSE 2015 Topical Modules

## U.S. Summary 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	%
<b>1. During the current school year, about how often have you done the following?</b>														
a. Completed an assignment that used an information source (book, article, Web site, etc.) other than required course readings	INL01a	Never	147	2	89	3	236	2	192	1	149	2	341	2
		Sometimes	1,487	17	748	19	2,235	18	1,452	11	996	15	2,448	12
		Often	2,927	32	1,529	38	4,456	34	3,249	25	2,006	31	5,255	27
		Very often	4,145	50	1,482	40	5,627	46	7,339	63	3,232	52	10,571	59
		Total	8,706	100	3,848	100	12,554	100	12,232	100	6,383	100	18,615	100
b. Worked on a paper or project that had multiple smaller assignments such as an outline, annotated bibliography, rough draft, etc.	INL01b	Never	342	5	156	5	498	5	802	6	472	7	1,274	7
		Sometimes	1,975	23	1,006	27	2,981	25	2,907	25	1,825	28	4,732	26
		Often	3,136	35	1,585	40	4,721	37	3,726	30	2,171	34	5,897	32
		Very often	3,235	37	1,092	28	4,327	34	4,776	39	1,904	30	6,680	35
		Total	8,688	100	3,839	100	12,527	100	12,198	100	6,360	100	18,558	100
c. Received feedback from an instructor that improved your use of information resources (source selection, proper citation, etc.)	INL01c	Never	403	5	175	5	578	5	880	7	537	9	1,417	8
		Sometimes	2,196	25	1,053	27	3,249	26	3,306	27	1,824	29	5,130	28
		Often	3,235	36	1,600	40	4,835	37	3,942	31	2,290	35	6,232	33
		Very often	2,831	34	1,009	27	3,840	31	4,070	34	1,709	27	5,779	32
		Total	8,665	100	3,837	100	12,502	100	12,182	100	6,353	100	18,535	100
d. Completed an assignment that used the library's electronic collection of articles, books, and journals (JSTOR, EBSCO, LexisNexis, ProQuest, etc.)	INL01d	Never	1,576	17	650	17	2,226	17	1,177	9	1,023	15	2,200	12
		Sometimes	2,749	29	1,359	34	4,108	31	2,738	22	1,851	28	4,589	24
		Often	2,361	27	1,120	29	3,481	28	3,256	27	1,670	27	4,926	27
		Very often	1,985	27	703	20	2,688	24	5,011	43	1,809	30	6,820	37
		Total	8,671	100	3,832	100	12,503	100	12,203	100	6,366	100	18,569	100
e. Decided not to use an information source in a course assignment due to its questionable quality	INL01e	Never	2,353	29	800	22	3,153	26	3,310	28	1,514	25	4,824	27
		Sometimes	3,142	36	1,544	39	4,686	37	4,417	35	2,522	39	6,939	37
		Often	2,010	21	978	25	2,988	23	2,560	20	1,438	22	3,998	21
		Very often	1,161	14	505	14	1,666	14	1,916	16	892	14	2,808	15
		Total	8,666	100	3,827	100	12,493	100	12,178	100	6,362	100	18,540	100
f. Changed the focus of a paper or project based on information you found while researching the topic	INL01f	Never	1,348	17	598	16	1,946	17	1,991	16	1,173	19	3,164	17
		Sometimes	3,585	42	1,685	44	5,270	43	5,258	45	2,825	45	8,083	45
		Often	2,384	25	1,011	26	3,395	26	3,011	24	1,556	24	4,567	24
		Very often	1,346	16	527	14	1,873	15	1,918	16	808	12	2,726	14
		Total	8,663	100	3,821	100	12,484	100	12,183	100	6,361	100	18,544	100
g. Looked for a reference that was cited in something you read	INL01g	Never	1,480	16	506	13	1,986	14	1,600	12	751	11	2,351	12
		Sometimes	2,949	33	1,422	36	4,371	35	4,171	34	2,209	35	6,380	34
		Often	2,584	29	1,249	33	3,833	31	3,466	28	2,076	32	5,542	30
		Very often	1,648	22	650	18	2,298	20	2,946	26	1,325	22	4,271	24
		Total	8,661	100	3,827	100	12,488	100	12,157	100	6,331	100	18,488	100
h. Identified how a book, article, or creative work has contributed to a field of study	INL01h	Never	1,799	21	655	18	2,454	19	2,040	16	1,057	17	3,097	16
		Sometimes	3,020	35	1,418	37	4,438	35	4,175	34	2,244	35	6,419	35
		Often	2,285	26	1,145	30	3,430	27	3,295	28	1,867	29	5,162	28
		Very often	1,536	19	586	16	2,122	18	2,647	22	1,163	19	3,810	21
		Total	8,640	100	3,804	100	12,444	100	12,233	100	6,382	100	18,615	100

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

# NSSE 2015 Topical Modules

## U.S. Summary 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	%
<b>2. During the current school year, how much have your instructors emphasized the following?</b>														
a. Not plagiarizing another author's work	INL02a	Very little	148	2	94	3	242	2	325	3	246	4	571	3
		Some	449	6	313	8	762	7	913	7	644	10	1,557	8
		Quite a bit	1,448	16	914	23	2,362	19	2,165	16	1,571	23	3,736	19
		Very much	6,634	76	2,527	66	9,161	72	8,830	74	3,921	63	12,751	69
		Total	8,679	100	3,848	100	12,527	100	12,233	100	6,382	100	18,615	100
b. Appropriately citing the sources used in a paper or project	INL02b	Very little	135	2	100	3	235	2	328	3	271	4	599	3
		Some	640	7	401	10	1,041	9	999	8	844	13	1,843	10
		Quite a bit	2,017	22	1,179	29	3,196	25	2,602	20	1,822	27	4,424	22
		Very much	5,865	69	2,154	58	8,019	65	8,255	70	3,423	56	11,678	64
		Total	8,657	100	3,834	100	12,491	100	12,184	100	6,360	100	18,544	100
c. Using scholarly or peer-reviewed sources in your course assignments	INL02c	Very little	340	4	180	5	520	5	597	5	442	7	1,039	6
		Some	1,237	14	642	17	1,879	15	1,294	11	1,048	17	2,342	13
		Quite a bit	2,340	26	1,263	31	3,603	28	2,655	21	1,770	27	4,425	24
		Very much	4,728	55	1,737	47	6,465	52	7,626	63	3,085	49	10,711	58
		Total	8,645	100	3,822	100	12,467	100	12,172	100	6,345	100	18,517	100
d. Questioning the quality of information sources	INL02d	Very little	546	7	244	7	790	7	1,104	11	672	12	1,776	11
		Some	1,549	18	814	21	2,363	19	2,322	19	1,507	23	3,829	21
		Quite a bit	2,441	26	1,273	31	3,714	28	3,036	24	1,891	29	4,927	26
		Very much	4,074	49	1,493	41	5,567	45	5,684	47	2,259	37	7,943	43
		Total	8,610	100	3,824	100	12,434	100	12,146	100	6,329	100	18,475	100
e. Using practices (terminology, methods, writing style, etc.) of a specific major or field of study	INL02e	Very little	689	9	305	9	994	9	642	6	404	7	1,046	7
		Some	1,800	20	874	23	2,674	21	1,889	16	1,234	20	3,123	17
		Quite a bit	2,319	26	1,204	30	3,523	27	3,028	24	1,921	29	4,949	26
		Very much	3,768	46	1,426	39	5,194	43	6,540	54	2,743	44	9,283	50
		Total	8,576	100	3,809	100	12,385	100	12,099	100	6,302	100	18,401	100
<b>3. How much has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in using information effectively?</b>														
	INL03	Very little	222	3	162	5	384	4	197	2	176	3	373	2
		Some	1,549	18	777	20	2,326	18	1,413	12	937	15	2,350	13
		Quite a bit	3,970	43	1,732	44	5,702	44	4,607	36	2,539	39	7,146	37
		Very much	2,885	37	1,139	31	4,024	34	5,991	50	2,690	43	8,681	47
		Total	8,626	100	3,810	100	12,436	100	12,208	100	6,342	100	18,550	100

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

# NSSE 2015 Topical Modules

## U.S. Summary Means and Standard Deviations by Class and Sex Experiences with Information Literacy

Item wording or description	Variable name	First-Year Students						Seniors					
		Female		Male		Total		Female		Male		Total	
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
<b>1. During the current school year, about how often have you done the following?</b>													
a. Completed an assignment that used an information source (book, article, Web site, etc.) other than required course readings	INL01a	3.29	.81	3.15	.82	3.24	.82	3.49	.74	3.33	.81	3.43	.77
b. Worked on a paper or project that had multiple smaller assignments such as an outline, annotated bibliography, rough draft, etc.	INL01b	3.05	.89	2.92	.86	3.00	.88	3.01	.94	2.87	.93	2.96	.94
c. Received feedback from an instructor that improved your use of information resources (source selection, proper citation, etc.)	INL01c	2.99	.89	2.90	.87	2.95	.88	2.93	.95	2.81	.93	2.88	.95
d. Completed an assignment that used the library's electronic collection of articles, books, and journals (JSTOR, EBSCO, LexisNexis, ProQuest, etc.)	INL01d	2.63	1.05	2.53	1.00	2.59	1.03	3.03	1.00	2.71	1.05	2.90	1.03
e. Decided not to use an information source in a course assignment due to its questionable quality	INL01e	2.20	1.01	2.31	.96	2.25	.99	2.24	1.03	2.26	.98	2.25	1.01
f. Changed the focus of a paper or project based on information you found while researching the topic	INL01f	2.40	.94	2.37	.91	2.39	.93	2.39	.94	2.30	.91	2.35	.93
g. Looked for a reference that was cited in something you read	INL01g	2.57	.99	2.56	.93	2.57	.97	2.68	.99	2.65	.94	2.67	.97
h. Identified how a book, article, or creative work has contributed to a field of study	INL01h	2.44	1.02	2.44	.96	2.44	.99	2.57	1.00	2.50	.98	2.54	1.00
<b>2. During the current school year, how much have your instructors emphasized the following?</b>													
a. Not plagiarizing another author's work	INL02a	3.67	.68	3.52	.77	3.61	.72	3.61	.75	3.46	.82	3.54	.78
b. Appropriately citing the sources used in a paper or project	INL02b	3.58	.70	3.41	.80	3.51	.75	3.57	.75	3.35	.86	3.48	.81
c. Using scholarly or peer-reviewed sources in your course assignments	INL02c	3.33	.87	3.19	.90	3.27	.88	3.42	.87	3.19	.95	3.33	.91
d. Questioning the quality of information sources	INL02d	3.17	.96	3.05	.95	3.12	.96	3.07	1.04	2.90	1.02	3.00	1.04
e. Using practices (terminology, methods, writing style, etc.) of a specific major or field of study	INL02e	3.09	1.00	2.98	.98	3.04	.99	3.26	.94	3.10	.95	3.20	.95
<b>3. How much has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in using information effectively?</b>													
	INL03	3.14	.79	3.01	.84	3.09	.82	3.35	.75	3.22	.80	3.30	.78

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