

2017 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 2017, 42 U.S. institutions elected to append these items to the core survey. Of these, 40 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 2017 participants as well as all bachelor's-granting U.S. institutions and students (all limited to the eight indicated Carnegie Classification categories).

| | Institutions | | | Students | | |
|---|--|-------------------------|------------------------------|--|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Info. Literacy Module (%) | NSSE 2017 (%) | U.S. ^b (%) | Info. Literacy Module (%) | NSSE 2017 (%) | U.S. ^b (%) |
| Carnegie Basic Classification^c | | | | | | |
| R1: Doctoral Universities - Highest research activity | 0 | 5 | 7 | 0 | 18 | 26 |
| R2: Doctoral Universities - Higher research activity | 8 | 6 | 6 | 29 | 13 | 14 |
| R3: Doctoral Universities - Moderate research activity | 10 | 7 | 7 | 17 | 9 | 11 |
| M1: Master's Colleges and Universities - Larger programs | 33 | 29 | 24 | 28 | 32 | 28 |
| M2: Master's Colleges and Universities - Medium programs | 13 | 13 | 13 | 7 | 8 | 7 |
| M3: Master's Colleges and Universities - Smaller programs | 13 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 5 | 3 |
| Baccalaureate Colleges: Arts & Sciences Focus | 8 | 16 | 15 | 5 | 8 | 4 |
| Baccalaureate Colleges: Diverse Fields | 18 | 15 | 19 | 6 | 7 | 5 |
| Control | | | | | | |
| Public | 48 | 44 | 35 | 51 | 67 | 66 |
| Private | 53 | 56 | 65 | 49 | 33 | 34 |
| Undergraduate enrollment | | | | | | |
| Fewer than 1,000 | 10 | 15 | 21 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| 1,000 – 2,499 | 23 | 32 | 33 | 7 | 14 | 10 |
| 2,500 – 4,999 | 20 | 18 | 17 | 16 | 14 | 11 |
| 5,000 – 9,999 | 30 | 19 | 14 | 28 | 21 | 19 |
| 10,000 – 19,999 | 13 | 9 | 9 | 19 | 18 | 24 |
| 20,000 or more | 5 | 7 | 6 | 28 | 30 | 34 |

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 2015 IPEDS Institutional Characteristics file.

c. For information on the Carnegie Foundation's Basic Classification, see carnegieclassifications.iu.edu

NSSE 2017 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 | % | | |
| 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 | 146 | 3 | 101 | 3 | 247 | 3 | 150 | 2 | 186 | 4 | 336 | 3 |
| | | Sometimes | 1,403 | 23 | 893 | 27 | 2,296 | 24 | 1,264 | 14 | 1,061 | 19 | 2,325 | 16 |
| | | Often | 2,208 | 36 | 1,299 | 39 | 3,507 | 37 | 2,322 | 28 | 1,704 | 33 | 4,026 | 30 |
| | | Very often | 2,014 | 38 | 979 | 31 | 2,993 | 36 | 3,937 | 56 | 2,031 | 44 | 5,968 | 51 |
| | | Total | 5,771 | 100 | 3,272 | 100 | 9,043 | 100 | 7,673 | 100 | 4,982 | 100 | 12,655 | 100 |
| b. Worked on a paper or project that had multiple smaller assignments such as an outline, annotated bibliography, rough draft, etc. | INL01b | Never | 322 | 6 | 191 | 6 | 513 | 6 | 566 | 7 | 501 | 10 | 1,067 | 8 |
| | | Sometimes | 1,663 | 30 | 1,044 | 32 | 2,707 | 31 | 2,018 | 25 | 1,629 | 32 | 3,647 | 28 |
| | | Often | 2,229 | 36 | 1,361 | 41 | 3,590 | 38 | 2,552 | 32 | 1,611 | 32 | 4,163 | 32 |
| | | Very often | 1,542 | 29 | 661 | 22 | 2,203 | 26 | 2,524 | 35 | 1,239 | 27 | 3,763 | 31 |
| | | Total | 5,756 | 100 | 3,257 | 100 | 9,013 | 100 | 7,660 | 100 | 4,980 | 100 | 12,640 | 100 |
| c. Received feedback from an instructor that improved your use of information resources (source selection, proper citation, etc.) | INL01c | Never | 356 | 7 | 231 | 6 | 587 | 7 | 664 | 8 | 636 | 12 | 1,300 | 10 |
| | | Sometimes | 1,763 | 29 | 1,044 | 32 | 2,807 | 30 | 2,243 | 28 | 1,637 | 32 | 3,880 | 29 |
| | | Often | 2,313 | 38 | 1,355 | 40 | 3,668 | 39 | 2,609 | 33 | 1,652 | 33 | 4,261 | 33 |
| | | Very often | 1,324 | 26 | 635 | 22 | 1,959 | 24 | 2,128 | 31 | 1,045 | 23 | 3,173 | 28 |
| | | Total | 5,756 | 100 | 3,265 | 100 | 9,021 | 100 | 7,644 | 100 | 4,970 | 100 | 12,614 | 100 |
| d. Completed an assignment that used the library's electronic collection of articles, books, and journals (JSTOR, EBSCO, LexisNexis, ProQuest, etc.) | INL01d | Never | 925 | 14 | 581 | 18 | 1,506 | 16 | 789 | 10 | 915 | 18 | 1,704 | 13 |
| | | Sometimes | 2,055 | 32 | 1,253 | 36 | 3,308 | 34 | 1,792 | 22 | 1,533 | 29 | 3,325 | 25 |
| | | Often | 1,710 | 30 | 965 | 30 | 2,675 | 30 | 2,099 | 27 | 1,272 | 26 | 3,371 | 27 |
| | | Very often | 1,075 | 23 | 462 | 17 | 1,537 | 21 | 2,988 | 41 | 1,258 | 27 | 4,246 | 35 |
| | | Total | 5,765 | 100 | 3,261 | 100 | 9,026 | 100 | 7,668 | 100 | 4,978 | 100 | 12,646 | 100 |
| e. Decided not to use an information source in a course assignment due to its questionable quality | INL01e | Never | 1,689 | 30 | 814 | 25 | 2,503 | 28 | 2,285 | 31 | 1,397 | 29 | 3,682 | 30 |
| | | Sometimes | 2,386 | 41 | 1,498 | 45 | 3,884 | 43 | 3,063 | 39 | 2,052 | 40 | 5,115 | 39 |
| | | Often | 1,245 | 20 | 686 | 21 | 1,931 | 21 | 1,522 | 19 | 1,044 | 21 | 2,566 | 20 |
| | | Very often | 427 | 9 | 253 | 9 | 680 | 9 | 780 | 11 | 480 | 10 | 1,260 | 11 |
| | | Total | 5,747 | 100 | 3,251 | 100 | 8,998 | 100 | 7,650 | 100 | 4,973 | 100 | 12,623 | 100 |
| f. Changed the focus of a paper or project based on information you found while researching the topic | INL01f | Never | 898 | 17 | 536 | 17 | 1,434 | 17 | 1,105 | 15 | 937 | 19 | 2,042 | 16 |
| | | Sometimes | 2,681 | 47 | 1,515 | 47 | 4,196 | 47 | 3,577 | 48 | 2,249 | 47 | 5,826 | 47 |
| | | Often | 1,635 | 26 | 981 | 29 | 2,616 | 27 | 2,056 | 26 | 1,308 | 25 | 3,364 | 25 |
| | | Very often | 526 | 10 | 218 | 7 | 744 | 9 | 902 | 12 | 469 | 10 | 1,371 | 11 |
| | | Total | 5,740 | 100 | 3,250 | 100 | 8,990 | 100 | 7,640 | 100 | 4,963 | 100 | 12,603 | 100 |
| g. Looked for a reference that was cited in something you read | INL01g | Never | 923 | 14 | 460 | 13 | 1,383 | 14 | 925 | 11 | 668 | 13 | 1,593 | 12 |
| | | Sometimes | 2,292 | 38 | 1,271 | 39 | 3,563 | 38 | 2,682 | 34 | 1,790 | 35 | 4,472 | 34 |
| | | Often | 1,800 | 31 | 1,142 | 34 | 2,942 | 33 | 2,467 | 32 | 1,594 | 33 | 4,061 | 32 |
| | | Very often | 735 | 16 | 380 | 14 | 1,115 | 15 | 1,567 | 23 | 922 | 20 | 2,489 | 22 |
| | | Total | 5,750 | 100 | 3,253 | 100 | 9,003 | 100 | 7,641 | 100 | 4,974 | 100 | 12,615 | 100 |
| h. Identified how a book, article, or creative work has contributed to a field of study | INL01h | Never | 1,121 | 19 | 639 | 18 | 1,760 | 19 | 1,195 | 14 | 885 | 17 | 2,080 | 15 |
| | | Sometimes | 2,293 | 39 | 1,359 | 42 | 3,652 | 40 | 2,862 | 36 | 1,926 | 38 | 4,788 | 37 |
| | | Often | 1,705 | 29 | 962 | 29 | 2,667 | 29 | 2,306 | 31 | 1,468 | 30 | 3,774 | 30 |
| | | Very often | 613 | 13 | 290 | 11 | 903 | 12 | 1,269 | 19 | 682 | 15 | 1,951 | 17 |
| | | Total | 5,732 | 100 | 3,250 | 100 | 8,982 | 100 | 7,632 | 100 | 4,961 | 100 | 12,593 | 100 |

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

NSSE 2017 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 | % |
| 2. During the current school year, how much have your instructors emphasized the following? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. Not plagiarizing another author's work | INL02a | Very little | 94 | 2 | 73 | 2 | 167 | 2 | 226 | 3 | 239 | 4 | 465 | 3 |
| | | Some | 393 | 6 | 341 | 11 | 734 | 8 | 709 | 8 | 723 | 12 | 1,432 | 10 |
| | | Quite a bit | 1,307 | 21 | 863 | 25 | 2,170 | 22 | 1,685 | 20 | 1,348 | 25 | 3,033 | 22 |
| | | Very much | 3,952 | 71 | 1,973 | 63 | 5,925 | 67 | 5,021 | 69 | 2,653 | 58 | 7,674 | 65 |
| | | Total | 5,746 | 100 | 3,250 | 100 | 8,996 | 100 | 7,641 | 100 | 4,963 | 100 | 12,604 | 100 |
| b. Appropriately citing the sources used in a paper or project | INL02b | Very little | 87 | 2 | 84 | 2 | 171 | 2 | 183 | 2 | 297 | 6 | 480 | 4 |
| | | Some | 497 | 7 | 413 | 12 | 910 | 9 | 691 | 8 | 817 | 14 | 1,508 | 11 |
| | | Quite a bit | 1,636 | 26 | 1,080 | 31 | 2,716 | 28 | 1,863 | 22 | 1,488 | 28 | 3,351 | 24 |
| | | Very much | 3,531 | 65 | 1,675 | 54 | 5,206 | 61 | 4,900 | 68 | 2,359 | 52 | 7,259 | 61 |
| | | Total | 5,751 | 100 | 3,252 | 100 | 9,003 | 100 | 7,637 | 100 | 4,961 | 100 | 12,598 | 100 |
| c. Using scholarly or peer reviewed sources in your course assignments | INL02c | Very little | 232 | 5 | 145 | 4 | 377 | 5 | 322 | 4 | 383 | 7 | 705 | 5 |
| | | Some | 822 | 14 | 559 | 17 | 1,381 | 15 | 826 | 10 | 842 | 16 | 1,668 | 13 |
| | | Quite a bit | 1,687 | 27 | 1,156 | 35 | 2,843 | 30 | 1,830 | 22 | 1,499 | 29 | 3,329 | 25 |
| | | Very much | 3,001 | 55 | 1,386 | 44 | 4,387 | 50 | 4,659 | 63 | 2,216 | 47 | 6,875 | 56 |
| | | Total | 5,742 | 100 | 3,246 | 100 | 8,988 | 100 | 7,637 | 100 | 4,940 | 100 | 12,577 | 100 |
| d. Questioning the quality of information sources | INL02d | Very little | 324 | 7 | 174 | 6 | 498 | 7 | 680 | 9 | 521 | 11 | 1,201 | 10 |
| | | Some | 1,112 | 18 | 728 | 22 | 1,840 | 20 | 1,573 | 20 | 1,306 | 25 | 2,879 | 22 |
| | | Quite a bit | 1,861 | 30 | 1,184 | 36 | 3,045 | 32 | 2,148 | 26 | 1,526 | 30 | 3,674 | 28 |
| | | Very much | 2,427 | 45 | 1,164 | 36 | 3,591 | 42 | 3,208 | 44 | 1,593 | 34 | 4,801 | 40 |
| | | Total | 5,724 | 100 | 3,250 | 100 | 8,974 | 100 | 7,609 | 100 | 4,946 | 100 | 12,555 | 100 |
| e. Using practices (terminology, methods, writing style, etc.) of a specific major or field of study | INL02e | Very little | 508 | 9 | 248 | 8 | 756 | 9 | 420 | 6 | 320 | 7 | 740 | 6 |
| | | Some | 1,514 | 25 | 916 | 28 | 2,430 | 26 | 1,400 | 18 | 1,090 | 22 | 2,490 | 20 |
| | | Quite a bit | 1,764 | 28 | 1,158 | 35 | 2,922 | 31 | 2,229 | 29 | 1,678 | 33 | 3,907 | 31 |
| | | Very much | 1,911 | 37 | 903 | 30 | 2,814 | 34 | 3,546 | 48 | 1,819 | 38 | 5,365 | 44 |
| | | Total | 5,697 | 100 | 3,225 | 100 | 8,922 | 100 | 7,595 | 100 | 4,907 | 100 | 12,502 | 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 | 154 | 4 | 119 | 5 | 273 | 4 | 133 | 2 | 142 | 4 | 275 | 3 |
| | | Some | 1,089 | 19 | 639 | 21 | 1,728 | 20 | 851 | 12 | 771 | 17 | 1,622 | 14 |
| | | Quite a bit | 2,441 | 41 | 1,444 | 42 | 3,885 | 41 | 2,785 | 35 | 1,895 | 37 | 4,680 | 36 |
| | | Very much | 2,049 | 37 | 1,048 | 32 | 3,097 | 35 | 3,878 | 51 | 2,155 | 42 | 6,033 | 47 |
| | | Total | 5,733 | 100 | 3,250 | 100 | 8,983 | 100 | 7,647 | 100 | 4,963 | 100 | 12,610 | 100 |

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

NSSE 2017 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 |
| 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 | 3.10 | .85 | 2.98 | .84 | 3.05 | .85 | 3.37 | .80 | 3.17 | .87 | 3.29 | .84 |
| b. Worked on a paper or project that had multiple smaller assignments such as an outline, annotated bibliography, rough draft, etc. | INL01b | 2.88 | .89 | 2.78 | .84 | 2.84 | .88 | 2.95 | .95 | 2.76 | .95 | 2.86 | .95 |
| c. Received feedback from an instructor that improved your use of information resources (source selection, proper citation, etc.) | INL01c | 2.83 | .90 | 2.77 | .86 | 2.81 | .88 | 2.87 | .94 | 2.67 | .96 | 2.79 | .96 |
| d. Completed an assignment that used the library's electronic collection of articles, books, and journals (JSTOR, EBSCO, LexisNexis, ProQuest, etc.) | INL01d | 2.62 | .99 | 2.45 | .97 | 2.55 | .99 | 3.00 | 1.01 | 2.63 | 1.07 | 2.84 | 1.05 |
| e. Decided not to use an information source in a course assignment due to its questionable quality | INL01e | 2.07 | .92 | 2.14 | .89 | 2.10 | .91 | 2.10 | .97 | 2.13 | .95 | 2.12 | .96 |
| f. Changed the focus of a paper or project based on information you found while researching the topic | INL01f | 2.29 | .86 | 2.26 | .82 | 2.28 | .85 | 2.35 | .87 | 2.25 | .87 | 2.31 | .87 |
| g. Looked for a reference that was cited in something you read | INL01g | 2.50 | .93 | 2.48 | .89 | 2.49 | .91 | 2.67 | .95 | 2.60 | .95 | 2.64 | .95 |
| h. Identified how a book, article, or creative work has contributed to a field of study | INL01h | 2.37 | .94 | 2.33 | .89 | 2.35 | .92 | 2.54 | .95 | 2.44 | .94 | 2.49 | .95 |
| 2. During the current school year, how much have your instructors emphasized the following? | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| a. Not plagiarizing another author's work | INL02a | 3.60 | .71 | 3.48 | .77 | 3.55 | .73 | 3.56 | .75 | 3.37 | .86 | 3.48 | .81 |
| b. Appropriately citing the sources used in a paper or project | INL02b | 3.53 | .72 | 3.38 | .78 | 3.47 | .75 | 3.56 | .73 | 3.27 | .90 | 3.44 | .82 |
| c. Using scholarly or peer reviewed sources in your course assignments | INL02c | 3.31 | .88 | 3.19 | .86 | 3.26 | .88 | 3.45 | .83 | 3.16 | .95 | 3.33 | .90 |
| d. Questioning the quality of information sources | INL02d | 3.13 | .95 | 3.03 | .90 | 3.09 | .93 | 3.05 | 1.01 | 2.87 | 1.01 | 2.97 | 1.01 |
| e. Using practices (terminology, methods, writing style, etc.) of a specific major or field of study | INL02e | 2.94 | 1.00 | 2.87 | .93 | 2.91 | .97 | 3.19 | .92 | 3.02 | .94 | 3.11 | .93 |
| 3. How much has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in using information effectively? | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | INL03 | 3.10 | .84 | 3.01 | .85 | 3.07 | .84 | 3.34 | .77 | 3.18 | .84 | 3.27 | .80 |

Notes: Results weighted by sex, enrollment status, and institution size. See codebook for variable ranges. Categorical items are not listed.

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