

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	%	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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