

2018 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 2018, 26 U.S. institutions elected to append these items to the core survey. Of these, 25 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 2018 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 2018 (%)	U.S. ^b (%)	Info. Literacy Module (%)	NSSE 2018 (%)	U.S. ^b (%)
Carnegie Basic Classification^c						
R1: Doctoral Universities - Highest research activity	8	5	7	29	15	27
R2: Doctoral Universities - Higher research activity	4	8	6	7	16	14
R3: Doctoral Universities - Moderate research activity	4	8	7	9	14	10
M1: Master's Colleges and Universities - Larger programs	16	27	24	19	29	28
M2: Master's Colleges and Universities - Medium programs	28	17	13	16	10	7
M3: Master's Colleges and Universities - Smaller programs	24	8	8	11	4	3
Baccalaureate Colleges: Arts & Sciences Focus	4	16	15	2	8	4
Baccalaureate Colleges: Diverse Fields	12	11	19	6	4	5
Control						
Public	52	39	35	75	57	67
Private	48	61	65	25	43	33
Undergraduate enrollment						
Fewer than 1,000	8	12	22	1	3	2
1,000 – 2,499	33	33	32	11	14	10
2,500 – 4,999	25	23	18	16	18	11
5,000 – 9,999	13	16	14	20	20	18
10,000 – 19,999	8	9	9	14	20	24
20,000 or more	13	6	6	37	25	35

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 2018 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	122	2	78	3	200	3	122	2	111	4	233	3
		Sometimes	1,144	22	628	23	1,772	23	929	18	619	23	1,548	20
		Often	2,030	39	1,097	43	3,127	41	1,801	33	985	35	2,786	34
		Very often	1,840	37	695	30	2,535	34	2,628	47	1,058	38	3,686	43
		Total	5,136	100	2,498	100	7,634	100	5,480	100	2,773	100	8,253	100
b. Worked on a paper or project that had multiple smaller assignments such as an outline, annotated bibliography, rough draft, etc.	INL01b	Never	242	5	115	4	357	5	422	8	243	9	665	9
		Sometimes	1,325	25	715	27	2,040	26	1,514	28	874	32	2,388	30
		Often	2,026	39	1,097	44	3,123	41	1,805	33	1,003	35	2,808	34
		Very often	1,537	31	565	24	2,102	28	1,735	31	660	24	2,395	28
		Total	5,130	100	2,492	100	7,622	100	5,476	100	2,780	100	8,256	100
c. Received feedback from an instructor that improved your use of information resources (source selection, proper citation, etc.)	INL01c	Never	232	4	131	5	363	5	459	9	312	12	771	10
		Sometimes	1,459	28	704	27	2,163	28	1,665	31	910	33	2,575	32
		Often	2,175	42	1,100	45	3,275	43	1,919	35	988	35	2,907	35
		Very often	1,260	25	552	23	1,812	24	1,437	25	565	20	2,002	23
		Total	5,126	100	2,487	100	7,613	100	5,480	100	2,775	100	8,255	100
d. Completed an assignment that used the library's electronic collection of articles, books, and journals (JSTOR, EBSCO, LexisNexis, ProQuest, etc.)	INL01d	Never	952	19	473	19	1,425	19	667	13	589	21	1,256	17
		Sometimes	1,779	34	910	36	2,689	35	1,429	27	915	33	2,344	30
		Often	1,481	28	758	30	2,239	29	1,461	26	715	26	2,176	26
		Very often	920	19	349	15	1,269	17	1,920	33	555	20	2,475	27
		Total	5,132	100	2,490	100	7,622	100	5,477	100	2,774	100	8,251	100
e. Decided not to use an information source in a course assignment due to its questionable quality	INL01e	Never	1,388	27	539	23	1,927	26	1,597	29	736	28	2,333	29
		Sometimes	1,993	39	1,058	40	3,051	39	2,119	39	1,137	40	3,256	39
		Often	1,267	24	646	26	1,913	25	1,170	21	629	23	1,799	22
		Very often	477	9	243	11	720	10	589	11	272	10	861	10
		Total	5,125	100	2,486	100	7,611	100	5,475	100	2,774	100	8,249	100
f. Changed the focus of a paper or project based on information you found while researching the topic	INL01f	Never	749	14	392	16	1,141	15	854	16	520	19	1,374	17
		Sometimes	2,222	43	1,054	42	3,276	43	2,502	45	1,257	45	3,759	45
		Often	1,624	32	794	32	2,418	32	1,477	27	718	26	2,195	27
		Very often	527	10	244	11	771	10	635	11	270	10	905	11
		Total	5,122	100	2,484	100	7,606	100	5,468	100	2,765	100	8,233	100
g. Looked for a reference that was cited in something you read	INL01g	Never	727	14	309	13	1,036	14	699	13	389	14	1,088	13
		Sometimes	1,981	39	943	37	2,924	38	1,937	36	978	35	2,915	35
		Often	1,736	33	906	36	2,642	35	1,750	32	932	34	2,682	33
		Very often	674	13	327	14	1,001	14	1,080	19	472	17	1,552	18
		Total	5,118	100	2,485	100	7,603	100	5,466	100	2,771	100	8,237	100
h. Identified how a book, article, or creative work has contributed to a field of study	INL01h	Never	919	18	387	16	1,306	17	937	18	535	20	1,472	19
		Sometimes	1,966	38	976	39	2,942	38	2,065	38	1,022	36	3,087	37
		Often	1,667	32	822	33	2,489	33	1,586	29	808	29	2,394	29
		Very often	560	11	297	13	857	12	860	15	399	15	1,259	15
		Total	5,112	100	2,482	100	7,594	100	5,448	100	2,764	100	8,212	100

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

NSSE 2018 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	56	1	56	2	112	2	133	2	98	4	231	3
		Some	368	7	258	9	626	8	458	8	366	12	824	10
		Quite a bit	1,188	22	742	28	1,930	25	1,188	22	737	26	1,925	24
		Very much	3,510	70	1,435	60	4,945	65	3,688	68	1,568	58	5,256	63
		Total	5,122	100	2,491	100	7,613	100	5,467	100	2,769	100	8,236	100
b. Appropriately citing the sources used in a paper or project	INL02b	Very little	56	1	56	2	112	2	128	3	162	6	290	4
		Some	472	9	315	12	787	10	510	10	400	14	910	12
		Quite a bit	1,479	28	872	34	2,351	31	1,382	25	898	31	2,280	28
		Very much	3,113	62	1,239	52	4,352	58	3,432	63	1,310	48	4,742	56
		Total	5,120	100	2,482	100	7,602	100	5,452	100	2,770	100	8,222	100
c. Using scholarly or peer-reviewed sources in your course assignments	INL02c	Very little	131	3	81	3	212	3	201	4	215	8	416	6
		Some	703	13	429	16	1,132	15	572	11	466	17	1,038	14
		Quite a bit	1,584	31	951	38	2,535	34	1,365	25	868	30	2,233	28
		Very much	2,695	53	1,022	43	3,717	49	3,316	60	1,217	44	4,533	53
		Total	5,113	100	2,483	100	7,596	100	5,454	100	2,766	100	8,220	100
d. Questioning the quality of information sources	INL02d	Very little	231	5	126	5	357	5	437	8	282	11	719	9
		Some	973	19	527	20	1,500	19	1,163	22	687	25	1,850	23
		Quite a bit	1,683	33	961	38	2,644	35	1,531	28	892	32	2,423	30
		Very much	2,210	44	862	36	3,072	41	2,301	42	889	33	3,190	38
		Total	5,097	100	2,476	100	7,573	100	5,432	100	2,750	100	8,182	100
e. Using practices (terminology, methods, writing style, etc.) of a specific major or field of study	INL02e	Very little	402	8	148	6	550	7	302	6	194	7	496	7
		Some	1,209	24	654	26	1,863	25	1,022	20	589	22	1,611	20
		Quite a bit	1,713	33	943	37	2,656	35	1,677	31	977	35	2,654	33
		Very much	1,761	35	715	31	2,476	33	2,424	44	993	36	3,417	40
		Total	5,085	100	2,460	100	7,545	100	5,425	100	2,753	100	8,178	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	120	2	75	3	195	3	84	2	103	4	187	3
		Some	934	18	555	22	1,489	20	657	12	468	17	1,125	15
		Quite a bit	2,361	46	1,100	44	3,461	45	2,092	39	1,101	39	3,193	39
		Very much	1,701	34	758	30	2,459	32	2,628	47	1,108	40	3,736	44
		Total	5,116	100	2,488	100	7,604	100	5,461	100	2,780	100	8,241	100

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

NSSE 2018 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	.82	3.00	.82	3.05	.82	3.25	.82	3.08	.87	3.17	.85
b. Worked on a paper or project that had multiple smaller assignments such as an outline, annotated bibliography, rough draft, etc.	INL01b	2.96	.86	2.88	.82	2.93	.85	2.86	.95	2.74	.92	2.80	.94
c. Received feedback from an instructor that improved your use of information resources (source selection, proper citation, etc.)	INL01c	2.88	.84	2.86	.83	2.87	.83	2.75	.93	2.64	.93	2.70	.94
d. Completed an assignment that used the library's electronic collection of articles, books, and journals (JSTOR, EBSCO, LexisNexis, ProQuest, etc.)	INL01d	2.47	1.00	2.40	.96	2.44	.98	2.80	1.04	2.45	1.03	2.64	1.05
e. Decided not to use an information source in a course assignment due to its questionable quality	INL01e	2.16	.93	2.24	.93	2.19	.93	2.13	.96	2.15	.93	2.14	.95
f. Changed the focus of a paper or project based on information you found while researching the topic	INL01f	2.38	.86	2.38	.87	2.38	.86	2.34	.88	2.27	.88	2.31	.88
g. Looked for a reference that was cited in something you read	INL01g	2.46	.89	2.51	.89	2.48	.89	2.58	.94	2.54	.94	2.56	.94
h. Identified how a book, article, or creative work has contributed to a field of study	INL01h	2.37	.90	2.42	.90	2.39	.90	2.42	.95	2.39	.96	2.41	.96
2. During the current school year, how much have your instructors emphasized the following?													
a. Not plagiarizing another author's work	INL02a	3.61	.66	3.46	.76	3.54	.71	3.55	.75	3.38	.84	3.47	.80
b. Appropriately citing the sources used in a paper or project	INL02b	3.51	.70	3.36	.77	3.44	.74	3.48	.78	3.21	.91	3.36	.85
c. Using scholarly or peer-reviewed sources in your course assignments	INL02c	3.35	.80	3.20	.82	3.28	.81	3.41	.84	3.11	.96	3.28	.91
d. Questioning the quality of information sources	INL02d	3.16	.89	3.05	.88	3.11	.89	3.04	.98	2.87	.99	2.96	.99
e. Using practices (terminology, methods, writing style, etc.) of a specific major or field of study	INL02e	2.96	.95	2.92	.90	2.94	.93	3.12	.93	3.00	.93	3.07	.93
3. How much has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in using information effectively?													
	INL03	3.11	.77	3.02	.81	3.07	.79	3.32	.75	3.15	.84	3.24	.79

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

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