

2019 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 2019, 18 U.S. institutions elected to append these items to the core survey. Of these, all 18 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 2019 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 2019 (%)	U.S. ^b (%)	Info. Literacy Module (%)	NSSE 2019 (%)	U.S. ^b (%)
Carnegie Basic Classification^c						
Doctoral Universities – Very high research activity	0	6	7	0	20	27
Doctoral Universities - High research activity	11	10	6	14	18	14
Doctoral/Professional Universities	22	13	7	21	17	11
Master's Colleges and Universities - Larger programs	28	26	25	41	25	28
Master's Colleges and Universities - Medium programs	11	15	13	4	8	7
Master's Colleges and Universities - Smaller programs	17	6	9	14	3	3
Baccalaureate Colleges: Arts & Sciences Focus	11	12	15	6	5	4
Baccalaureate Colleges: Diverse Fields	0	12	18	0	4	5
Control						
Public	33	42	35	48	62	67
Private	67	58	65	52	38	33
Undergraduate enrollment						
Fewer than 1,000	11	12	21	3	3	2
1,000 – 2,499	33	33	32	16	14	10
2,500 – 4,999	11	21	17	10	14	11
5,000 – 9,999	44	17	14	71	20	18
10,000 – 19,999	0	10	9	0	21	23
20,000 or more	0	7	6	0	29	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 2018 IPEDS Institutional Characteristics file.

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

NSSE 2019 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	66	2	25	2	91	2	36	2	32	3	68	2
		Sometimes	627	23	339	26	967	24	373	16	257	22	630	18
		Often	1,118	40	620	45	1,738	42	752	31	434	36	1,186	33
		Very often	999	35	365	27	1,364	31	1,212	52	473	39	1,686	46
		Total	2,810	100	1,349	100	4,160	100	2,373	100	1,196	100	3,570	100
b. Worked on a paper or project that had multiple smaller assignments such as an outline, annotated bibliography, rough draft, etc.	INL01b	Never	140	5	57	4	197	5	156	7	101	9	257	8
		Sometimes	733	27	417	33	1,151	29	621	26	350	29	971	27
		Often	1,131	40	602	43	1,733	41	785	33	443	37	1,229	35
		Very often	807	28	272	20	1,079	24	807	34	302	25	1,109	30
		Total	2,811	100	1,348	100	4,160	100	2,369	100	1,196	100	3,566	100
c. Received feedback from an instructor that improved your use of information resources (source selection, proper citation, etc.)	INL01c	Never	108	4	63	5	171	4	159	7	107	10	266	8
		Sometimes	745	27	375	28	1,120	28	645	26	348	28	994	27
		Often	1,238	44	642	47	1,881	45	860	36	449	37	1,309	36
		Very often	712	25	271	19	983	22	705	30	293	25	998	28
		Total	2,803	100	1,351	100	4,155	100	2,369	100	1,197	100	3,567	100
d. Completed an assignment that used the library's electronic collection of articles, books, and journals (JSTOR, EBSCO, LexisNexis, ProQuest, etc.)	INL01d	Never	520	19	247	20	767	20	293	13	234	21	527	17
		Sometimes	910	33	490	37	1,401	35	554	24	370	31	924	27
		Often	838	30	427	30	1,265	30	658	28	304	25	962	27
		Very often	535	18	188	13	723	16	860	35	287	24	1,148	30
		Total	2,803	100	1,352	100	4,156	100	2,365	100	1,195	100	3,561	100
e. Decided not to use an information source in a course assignment due to its questionable quality	INL01e	Never	688	26	271	22	960	24	577	26	258	22	835	24
		Sometimes	1,186	42	588	44	1,774	43	955	40	501	42	1,457	41
		Often	695	24	384	26	1,079	25	549	23	275	22	824	22
		Very often	236	8	109	8	345	8	282	12	161	14	443	13
		Total	2,805	100	1,352	100	4,158	100	2,363	100	1,195	100	3,559	100
f. Changed the focus of a paper or project based on information you found while researching the topic	INL01f	Never	422	16	225	19	648	17	349	16	207	18	556	17
		Sometimes	1,205	44	570	42	1,775	43	1,014	43	539	45	1,553	43
		Often	876	30	444	30	1,320	30	693	29	301	25	995	27
		Very often	299	10	109	8	408	9	309	13	142	12	451	13
		Total	2,802	100	1,348	100	4,151	100	2,365	100	1,189	100	3,555	100
g. Looked for a reference that was cited in something you read	INL01g	Never	458	17	139	11	598	14	277	12	135	12	412	12
		Sometimes	1,035	37	504	39	1,539	38	815	35	415	35	1,231	35
		Often	955	33	544	39	1,499	36	741	31	417	35	1,158	33
		Very often	352	12	161	11	513	12	532	22	227	19	759	21
		Total	2,800	100	1,348	100	4,149	100	2,365	100	1,194	100	3,560	100
h. Identified how a book, article, or creative work has contributed to a field of study	INL01h	Never	486	17	180	15	667	16	347	15	179	16	526	15
		Sometimes	1,095	40	538	40	1,633	40	839	36	425	35	1,264	35
		Often	888	32	501	36	1,389	34	751	31	395	33	1,147	32
		Very often	327	12	129	9	456	11	425	18	192	16	617	17
		Total	2,796	100	1,348	100	4,145	100	2,362	100	1,191	100	3,554	100

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

NSSE 2019 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	64	2	28	2	92	2	53	2	41	3	94	3
		Some	198	7	142	9	340	8	199	8	156	13	355	10
		Quite a bit	615	22	373	27	989	24	490	20	301	25	791	22
		Very much	1,923	69	807	62	2,730	66	1,624	70	697	59	2,322	65
		Total	2,800	100	1,350	100	4,151	100	2,366	100	1,195	100	3,562	100
b. Appropriately citing the sources used in a paper or project	INL02b	Very little	38	2	18	1	56	2	50	2	61	5	111	4
		Some	214	8	166	12	380	10	194	8	172	15	366	11
		Quite a bit	793	29	490	36	1,283	32	610	26	328	27	938	26
		Very much	1,747	62	673	51	2,421	57	1,508	64	627	53	2,136	59
		Total	2,792	100	1,347	100	4,140	100	2,362	100	1,188	100	3,551	100
c. Using scholarly or peer-reviewed sources in your course assignments	INL02c	Very little	76	3	30	2	106	3	76	4	80	7	156	5
		Some	345	13	238	17	583	15	222	10	187	16	409	12
		Quite a bit	859	31	514	38	1,374	34	563	24	327	27	890	25
		Very much	1,512	54	562	42	2,074	49	1,502	63	597	50	2,100	57
		Total	2,792	100	1,344	100	4,137	100	2,363	100	1,191	100	3,555	100
d. Questioning the quality of information sources	INL02d	Very little	135	5	53	4	188	4	152	7	116	10	268	8
		Some	553	20	320	24	873	21	449	19	283	24	732	21
		Quite a bit	900	32	546	40	1,447	36	716	30	358	30	1,074	30
		Very much	1,196	43	418	32	1,614	38	1,039	44	433	36	1,473	41
		Total	2,784	100	1,337	100	4,122	100	2,356	100	1,190	100	3,547	100
e. Using practices (terminology, methods, writing style, etc.) of a specific major or field of study	INL02e	Very little	192	7	78	7	270	7	103	5	58	5	161	5
		Some	695	25	370	27	1,065	26	341	14	251	21	592	17
		Quite a bit	945	33	531	39	1,477	36	748	31	395	33	1,143	32
		Very much	936	35	361	27	1,297	31	1,168	50	481	41	1,650	46
		Total	2,768	100	1,340	100	4,109	100	2,360	100	1,185	100	3,546	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	41	2	47	4	88	3	30	1	32	3	62	2
		Some	472	17	292	21	764	19	244	11	168	14	412	12
		Quite a bit	1,245	44	608	45	1,853	44	843	36	449	38	1,293	37
		Very much	1,038	37	402	30	1,441	34	1,247	53	545	45	1,792	49
		Total	2,796	100	1,349	100	4,146	100	2,364	100	1,194	100	3,559	100

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

NSSE 2019 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	3.07	.81	2.97	.78	3.03	.80	3.32	.80	3.11	.84	3.23	.82
b. Worked on a paper or project that had multiple smaller assignments such as an outline, annotated bibliography, rough draft, etc.	INL01b	2.90	.87	2.79	.81	2.85	.85	2.94	.94	2.79	.92	2.88	.93
c. Received feedback from an instructor that improved your use of information resources (source selection, proper citation, etc.)	INL01c	2.90	.81	2.81	.81	2.86	.81	2.90	.92	2.77	.93	2.84	.93
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	2.36	.95	2.42	.98	2.85	1.05	2.51	1.07	2.70	1.07
e. Decided not to use an information source in a course assignment due to its questionable quality	INL01e	2.15	.89	2.19	.87	2.17	.88	2.20	.96	2.28	.96	2.23	.96
f. Changed the focus of a paper or project based on information you found while researching the topic	INL01f	2.35	.87	2.27	.86	2.31	.86	2.39	.90	2.31	.91	2.35	.90
g. Looked for a reference that was cited in something you read	INL01g	2.42	.91	2.51	.84	2.46	.88	2.65	.95	2.61	.92	2.63	.94
h. Identified how a book, article, or creative work has contributed to a field of study	INL01h	2.38	.90	2.40	.85	2.39	.88	2.52	.95	2.49	.94	2.51	.95
2. During the current school year, how much have your instructors emphasized the following?													
a. Not plagiarizing another author's work	INL02a	3.57	.73	3.49	.75	3.54	.74	3.57	.74	3.40	.84	3.49	.79
b. Appropriately citing the sources used in a paper or project	INL02b	3.51	.71	3.36	.75	3.44	.73	3.51	.74	3.28	.90	3.41	.82
c. Using scholarly or peer-reviewed sources in your course assignments	INL02c	3.35	.81	3.20	.81	3.29	.81	3.46	.82	3.20	.95	3.35	.88
d. Questioning the quality of information sources	INL02d	3.15	.89	3.00	.85	3.08	.88	3.11	.95	2.92	1.01	3.03	.98
e. Using practices (terminology, methods, writing style, etc.) of a specific major or field of study	INL02e	2.96	.93	2.87	.89	2.92	.91	3.26	.87	3.09	.91	3.19	.89
3. How much has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in using information effectively?													
	INL03	3.17	.76	3.01	.82	3.10	.79	3.39	.73	3.25	.80	3.33	.76

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