

McHenry County College Library

Information Literacy Program

Mission, Goals & Objectives

Mission:

The McHenry County College Library meets the information needs of the college community by providing a balanced collection of resources in all appropriate formats; teaching our patrons to find, evaluate, and use information effectively; and delivering friendly, courteous, and professional service. We value intellectual freedom, inquiry, and lifelong learning, and we encourage these values in those we serve.

The Reference Department is the teaching arm of the Library, and the Information Literacy Program is the primary mechanism through which we teach the location, evaluation, and use of information resources. We aim to help the members of the college community to become information literate lifelong learners.

Information Literacy Defined:

Information literacy is the ability to recognize when information is needed and to locate, evaluate, and use information effectively.

Goals:

The following program goals are based on the *Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education* published by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) in 2000. While the ACRL Standards provide big-picture institutional goals for information literacy, the goals and objectives below provide more specific outcomes for the MCC Library Information Literacy Program.

Goal 1: Students will develop effective information search and retrieval strategies.

Objectives:

The student can:

- a. Locate service areas (e.g., Reference Desk, Circulation Desk, etc.) within the McHenry County College Library, and articulate the purposes and policies of each.
 - Students will feel comfortable approaching a reference librarian for research assistance. (attitudinal affective sub-objective)
- b. Develop and follow an organized research plan.
- c. Develop a manageable research topic.
 - Formulate questions and potential search terms expressing the information need.
 - Explore background information sources to increase familiarity with the topic.
- d. Select the type of resource (information format) best suited to the information need.
- e. Select appropriate access tools (e.g., catalogs, indexes, holdings lists, Internet search tools, etc.) to identify and locate information sources.

- f. Construct search statements using such search concepts as keyword searching, controlled vocabulary, Boolean logic, phrase searching, field searching, and truncation.
 - Construct search statements appropriate to different access tools.
- g. Evaluate search results and modify the search strategy as necessary.
- h. Interpret bibliographic citations and locate the sources cited.
- i. Identify, locate and navigate collections (e.g., Stacks, Reference, Periodicals, Reserves, Electronic Collections, etc.) within the McHenry County College Library.
 - Use an LC call number to navigate from the library catalog to the item on the shelf.
- j. Utilize the interlibrary loan process to obtain resources owned by another library.

Goal 2: Students will develop skills to critically evaluate and select appropriate information sources.

Objectives:

The student can:

- a. Distinguish between popular and scholarly materials.
- b. Distinguish between primary and secondary sources.
- c. Distinguish fact from opinion.
- d. Analyze an argument for supporting evidence and logical fallacies.
- e. Evaluate the quality of a resource using multiple criteria including authority, objectivity, and accuracy.
- f. Judge the suitability of a resource to the information need by assessing its purpose, scope, intended audience, point of view, timeliness, publication format, and relevance.

Goal 3: Students will use information effectively and responsibly.

Objectives:

The student can:

- a. Recognize when information is needed and articulate the need.
- b. Use information effectively and appropriately to accomplish a specific purpose.
- c. Discuss information issues in our society, such as intellectual freedom, privacy, intellectual property, etc.
- d. Abide by laws and institutional policies regarding the access and use of information resources.
- e. Use information ethically by properly citing use of information and ideas gleaned from the works of others.