



NSSE 2014 Topical Module

Experiences with Information Literacy

University of Massachusetts Boston

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About This Topical Module

Developed in collaboration with college and university librarians, this module asks students about their use of information and how much their instructors emphasized the proper use of information sources. This module complements questions on the core survey about higher-order learning and how much writing students do.

Comparison Group

This section summarizes how this module's comparison group was identified, including selection criteria and whether the default option was taken. This is followed by the resulting list of institutions represented in the 'Public 4-Year Inst' column of this report.

Group label	Public 4-Year Inst
Date submitted	6/12/14
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution customized this group by selecting institutional characteristics as follows: Sector (Pub)
Group description	Public 4-year institutions responding to the "Information Literacy" module.

'Public 4-Year Inst' institutions (N=28)

California State Polytechnic University-Pomona (Pomona, CA)
California State University, San Bernardino (San Bernardino, CA)
Eastern Connecticut State University (Willimantic, CT)
Longwood University (Farmville, VA)
Mississippi University for Women (Columbus, MS)
Northwestern Oklahoma State University (Alva, OK)
Ohio University (Athens, OH)
Peru State College (Peru, NE)
San Jose State University (San Jose, CA)
SUNY Empire State College (Saratoga Springs, NY)
The State University of New York at Potsdam (Potsdam, NY)
The University of New Orleans (New Orleans, LA)
The University of Tennessee Martin (Martin, TN)
Towson University (Towson, MD)
United States Air Force Academy (USAF, CO)
United States Naval Academy (Annapolis, MD)
University of Baltimore (Baltimore, MD)
University of Central Florida (Orlando, FL)
University of Louisiana at Lafayette (Lafayette, LA)
University of Maine at Machias (Machias, ME)
University of Massachusetts Amherst (Amherst, MA)
University of Montevallo (Montevallo, AL)
University of Northern Iowa (Cedar Falls, IA)
University of Puerto Rico in Ponce (Ponce, PR)
Washington State University (Pullman, WA)
West Texas A&M University (Canyon, TX)
William Paterson University of New Jersey (Wayne, NJ)
Worcester State University (Worcester, MA)

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UMass Boston		Public 4-Year Inst		UMass Boston	Public 4-Year Inst	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
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	1	Never	1	1	168	2	3.3	3.2	.08
		2	Sometimes	25	18	1,834	18			
		3	Often	44	32	3,820	36			
		4	Very often	72	49	4,820	44			
		Total		142	100	10,642	100			
b. Worked on a paper or project that had multiple smaller assignments such as an outline, annotated bibliography, rough draft, etc.	INL01b	1	Never	2	1	505	5	3.3	3.0 ***	.33
		2	Sometimes	22	16	2,676	25			
		3	Often	51	38	4,045	38			
		4	Very often	69	45	3,407	32			
		Total		144	100	10,633	100			
c. Received feedback from an instructor that improved your use of information resources (source selection, proper citation, etc.)	INL01c	1	Never	3	2	592	5	3.2	2.9 ***	.33
		2	Sometimes	31	22	2,914	28			
		3	Often	42	31	4,118	39			
		4	Very often	66	45	2,985	28			
		Total		142	100	10,609	100			
d. Completed an assignment that used the library's electronic collection of articles, books, and journals (JSTOR, EBSCO, LexisNexis, ProQuest, etc.)	INL01d	1	Never	11	8	1,793	17	3.0	2.6 ***	.41
		2	Sometimes	34	24	3,495	33			
		3	Often	43	31	2,949	28			
		4	Very often	56	37	2,380	23			
		Total		144	100	10,617	100			
e. Decided not to use an information source in a course assignment due to its questionable quality	INL01e	1	Never	36	26	2,334	23	2.3	2.3	.06
		2	Sometimes	46	33	4,113	39			
		3	Often	36	25	2,773	25			
		4	Very often	25	17	1,402	13			
		Total		143	100	10,622	100			
f. Changed the focus of a paper or project based on information you found while researching the topic	INL01f	1	Never	16	10	1,606	16	2.6	2.4	.16
		2	Sometimes	61	43	4,394	42			
		3	Often	38	28	3,084	28			
		4	Very often	28	19	1,519	14			
		Total		143	100	10,603	100			
g. Looked for a reference that was cited in something you read	INL01g	1	Never	20	13	1,705	16	2.8	2.5 ***	.29
		2	Sometimes	38	27	3,946	38			
		3	Often	45	32	3,164	30			
		4	Very often	41	28	1,788	17			
		Total		144	100	10,603	100			
h. Identified how a book, article, or creative work has contributed to a field of study	INL01h	1	Never	26	17	2,017	20	2.6	2.4 **	.25
		2	Sometimes	41	29	3,950	38			
		3	Often	39	28	2,961	27			
		4	Very often	38	26	1,640	15			
		Total		144	100	10,568	100			

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the Endnotes page for a key to the triangle symbols.

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UMass Boston		Public 4-Year Inst		UMass Boston	Public 4-Year Inst	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
2. During the current school year, how much have your instructors emphasized the following?										
a. Not plagiarizing another author's work	INL02a	1	Very little	6	5	147	2	3.5	3.6	-.14
		2	Some	13	10	655	7			
		3	Quite a bit	16	12	2,044	19			
		4	Very much	108	73	7,801	73			
		Total		143	100	10,647	100			
b. Appropriately citing the sources used in a paper or project	INL02b	1	Very little	2	2	186	2	3.6	3.5	.11
		2	Some	14	10	907	9			
		3	Quite a bit	21	16	2,637	26			
		4	Very much	106	72	6,889	63			
		Total		143	100	10,619	100			
c. Using scholarly or peer-reviewed sources in your course assignments	INL02c	1	Very little	6	4	418	4	3.4	3.3	.09
		2	Some	20	15	1,535	15			
		3	Quite a bit	28	20	3,003	29			
		4	Very much	87	60	5,635	52			
		Total		141	100	10,591	100			
d. Questioning the quality of information sources	INL02d	1	Very little	12	9	544	6	3.2	3.1	.07
		2	Some	23	16	1,991	19			
		3	Quite a bit	29	22	3,148	31			
		4	Very much	79	54	4,887	44			
		Total		143	100	10,570	100			
e. Using practices (terminology, methods, writing style, etc.) of a specific major or field of study	INL02e	1	Very little	14	10	839	8	3.0	3.0	.04
		2	Some	31	22	2,376	23			
		3	Quite a bit	32	22	3,017	29			
		4	Very much	66	45	4,285	40			
		Total		143	100	10,517	100			
3. How much has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in using information effectively?										
	INL03	1	Very little	5	3	263	3	3.1	3.1	.03
		2	Some	26	18	1,856	18			
		3	Quite a bit	61	43	4,842	46			
		4	Very much	50	36	3,620	33			
		Total		142	100	10,581	100			

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UMass Boston		Public 4-Year Inst		UMass Boston	Public 4-Year Inst	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
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	1	Never	6	3	287	2	3.4	3.4	-.04
		2	Sometimes	36	18	2,123	14			
		3	Often	45	20	4,516	29			
		4	Very often	132	59	9,159	56			
		Total		219	100	16,085	100			
b. Worked on a paper or project that had multiple smaller assignments such as an outline, annotated bibliography, rough draft, etc.	INL01b	1	Never	20	10	1,166	7	3.0	2.9	.01
		2	Sometimes	49	23	4,000	25			
		3	Often	66	30	5,152	32			
		4	Very often	85	38	5,756	35			
		Total		220	100	16,074	100			
c. Received feedback from an instructor that improved your use of information resources (source selection, proper citation, etc.)	INL01c	1	Never	26	12	1,271	8	2.8	2.8	.00
		2	Sometimes	54	25	4,636	30			
		3	Often	69	32	5,452	34			
		4	Very often	70	31	4,669	28			
		Total		219	100	16,028	100			
d. Completed an assignment that used the library's electronic collection of articles, books, and journals (JSTOR, EBSCO, LexisNexis, ProQuest, etc.)	INL01d	1	Never	21	10	1,937	13	3.0	2.8 *	.13
		2	Sometimes	47	21	4,123	26			
		3	Often	66	30	4,226	26			
		4	Very often	86	38	5,763	35			
		Total		220	100	16,049	100			
e. Decided not to use an information source in a course assignment due to its questionable quality	INL01e	1	Never	83	37	3,938	25	2.1	2.3 **	-.20
		2	Sometimes	68	31	6,046	38			
		3	Often	43	20	3,609	22			
		4	Very often	26	12	2,446	15			
		Total		220	100	16,039	100			
f. Changed the focus of a paper or project based on information you found while researching the topic	INL01f	1	Never	43	20	2,610	17	2.4	2.4	.01
		2	Sometimes	82	38	6,872	43			
		3	Often	57	26	4,103	25			
		4	Very often	36	16	2,439	15			
		Total		218	100	16,024	100			
g. Looked for a reference that was cited in something you read	INL01g	1	Never	26	12	2,103	13	2.7	2.6	.13
		2	Sometimes	66	31	5,558	35			
		3	Often	66	29	4,832	30			
		4	Very often	60	28	3,540	21			
		Total		218	100	16,033	100			
h. Identified how a book, article, or creative work has contributed to a field of study	INL01h	1	Never	41	19	2,704	18	2.5	2.5	.07
		2	Sometimes	71	33	5,639	36			
		3	Often	49	22	4,455	28			
		4	Very often	58	26	3,203	19			
		Total		219	100	16,001	100			

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the Endnotes page for a key to the triangle symbols.

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UMass Boston		Public 4-Year Inst		UMass Boston	Public 4-Year Inst	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
2. During the current school year, how much have your instructors emphasized the following?										
a. Not plagiarizing another author's work	INL02a	1	Very little	10	5	482	3	3.5	3.5	-.07
		2	Some	18	9	1,244	8			
		3	Quite a bit	40	18	3,074	20			
		4	Very much	152	68	11,286	69			
		Total		220	100	16,086	100			
b. Appropriately citing the sources used in a paper or project	INL02b	1	Very little	6	3	564	4	3.5	3.4	.04
		2	Some	25	12	1,601	11			
		3	Quite a bit	45	21	3,706	24			
		4	Very much	144	64	10,168	61			
		Total		220	100	16,039	100			
c. Using scholarly or peer-reviewed sources in your course assignments	INL02c	1	Very little	15	7	943	6	3.3	3.3	-.02
		2	Some	28	14	2,042	14			
		3	Quite a bit	52	24	3,834	25			
		4	Very much	124	55	9,191	55			
		Total		219	100	16,010	100			
d. Questioning the quality of information sources	INL02d	1	Very little	21	10	1,460	10	3.0	3.0	-.04
		2	Some	54	25	3,228	21			
		3	Quite a bit	53	24	4,328	28			
		4	Very much	90	41	6,959	42			
		Total		218	100	15,975	100			
e. Using practices (terminology, methods, writing style, etc.) of a specific major or field of study	INL02e	1	Very little	14	7	927	6	3.1	3.2	-.06
		2	Some	42	20	2,743	18			
		3	Quite a bit	60	28	4,439	29			
		4	Very much	98	46	7,788	48			
		Total		214	100	15,897	100			
3. How much has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in using information effectively?										
	INL03	1	Very little	9	4	310	2	3.2	3.3 *	-.15
		2	Some	37	17	2,004	13			
		3	Quite a bit	80	37	6,174	39			
		4	Very much	94	42	7,548	46			
		Total		220	100	16,036	100			

First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	UMass Boston	UMass Boston	Public 4-Year Inst	UMass Boston	Public 4-Year Inst	UMass Boston	Public 4-Year Inst	Comparisons with: Public 4-Year Inst		
INL01a	142	3.29	3.23	.07	.01	0.79	0.80	4,783	.365	.08
INL01b	143	3.26	2.97	.06	.01	0.77	0.88	4,777	.000	.33
INL01c	141	3.18	2.90	.07	.01	0.86	0.87	4,767	.000	.33
INL01d	143	2.97	2.56	.08	.01	0.97	1.02	152	.000	.41
INL01e	142	2.33	2.27	.09	.01	1.04	0.96	149	.542	.06
INL01f	143	2.55	2.40	.08	.01	0.91	0.92	4,763	.058	.16
INL01g	143	2.75	2.48	.08	.01	1.01	0.95	4,762	.001	.29
INL01h	143	2.63	2.38	.09	.01	1.05	0.97	150	.006	.25
INL021	142	3.53	3.63	.07	.01	0.87	0.68	146	.200	-.14
INL02b	142	3.58	3.50	.06	.01	0.75	0.74	4,771	.180	.11
INL02c	140	3.36	3.29	.08	.01	0.90	0.87	4,758	.320	.09
INL02d	142	3.20	3.14	.08	.01	1.00	0.92	149	.459	.07
INL02e	142	3.04	3.00	.09	.01	1.04	0.98	4,724	.657	.04
INL03	141	3.11	3.09	.07	.01	0.81	0.78	4,756	.729	.03

Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
	UMass Boston	UMass Boston	Public 4-Year Inst	UMass Boston	Public 4-Year Inst	UMass Boston	Public 4-Year Inst			
								<i>Comparisons with:</i>		
								Public 4-Year Inst		
INL01a	218	3.35	3.38	.06	.01	0.88	0.79	227	.595	-.04
INL01b	219	2.96	2.95	.07	.01	0.99	0.95	8,352	.873	.01
INL01c	218	2.82	2.82	.07	.01	1.01	0.94	8,331	.989	.00
INL01d	219	2.97	2.83	.07	.01	1.01	1.04	231	.050	.13
INL01e	219	2.07	2.26	.07	.01	1.03	0.99	8,335	.004	-.20
INL01f	217	2.38	2.37	.07	.01	0.98	0.93	8,326	.830	.01
INL01g	217	2.72	2.60	.07	.01	1.00	0.96	8,325	.053	.13
INL01h	218	2.55	2.48	.07	.01	1.08	0.99	227	.382	.07
INL021	219	3.49	3.55	.06	.01	0.86	0.77	228	.323	-.07
INL02b	219	3.46	3.43	.06	.01	0.82	0.83	8,336	.559	.04
INL02c	218	3.27	3.29	.06	.01	0.95	0.93	8,320	.757	-.02
INL02d	217	2.97	3.01	.07	.01	1.03	1.01	8,299	.529	-.04
INL02e	213	3.12	3.17	.07	.01	0.96	0.93	8,259	.412	-.06
INL03	219	3.17	3.28	.06	.01	0.86	0.77	8,327	.027	-.15

Endnotes

- a. Column percentages are weighted by gender and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. Counts are unweighted; column percentages cannot be replicated from counts.
- b. All statistics are weighted by gender and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Unless otherwise noted, statistical comparisons are two-tailed independent t-tests. Items with categorical response sets are left blank.
- c. These are the values used to calculate means. For the majority of items, these values match the codes in the data file and codebook.
- d. Effect size for independent t-tests uses Cohen's *d*.
- e. Statistics are weighted by gender and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Categorical items are not listed.
- f. The 95% confidence interval for the population mean is equal to the sample mean plus or minus 1.96 times the standard error of the mean.
- g. A measure of the amount individual scores deviate from the mean of all the scores in the distribution.
- h. Degrees of freedom used to compute the t-tests. Values differ from Ns due to weighting and whether equal variances were assumed.
- i. Statistical comparisons are two-tailed independent t-tests. Statistical significance represents the probability that the difference between your students' mean and that of the comparison group is due to chance.

Key to symbols:

- ▲ **Your students' average** was significantly higher ($p < .05$) with an effect size at least .3 in magnitude.
- △ **Your students' average** was significantly higher ($p < .05$) with an effect size less than .3 in magnitude.
- ▽ **Your students' average** was significantly lower ($p < .05$) with an effect size less than .3 in magnitude.
- ▼ **Your students' average** was significantly lower ($p < .05$) with an effect size at least .3 in magnitude.