

# INTRO TO INFORMATION LITERACY

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# What is information literacy?

- Information literacy is:
  - ▣ “a set of abilities requiring individuals to "recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information.”

■ *Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education*. American Library Association. 2006.  
<http://www.ala.org/acrl/ilcomstan.html>

# Information Literacy

Information literacy covers a lot of ground:

- ▶ **Tool literacy** - using print and electronic resources
- ▶ **Resource literacy** - understanding the form, format, location and methods for accessing information resources.
- ▶ **Social-structural literacy** – knowing how information is produced. It includes understanding the scholarly publishing process.
- ▶ **Research literacy** - understanding and using information technology tools to carry out research
- ▶ **Publishing literacy** - producing document report of research results.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlissues/acrlinfolit/infolitoverview/infolitforfac/infolitfaculty.cfm>

# Why be information literate?

- Volume of information produced
  - ▣ Billions of web pages, with more produced everyday
  - ▣ Thousands of magazine, journal, newspaper titles
  
- Variety of information sources
  - ▣ Print: books, magazines, journals, newspapers
  - ▣ Electronic: web, audio, video (sometimes all three!)
  
- Career/ professional success
  
- Everyday applications