

# Boosting Information Literacy

## How librarians can empower students to succeed

A pressing challenge facing students is accessing the precise information their studies require in an ever-expanding information landscape.

By taking steps to build information literacy — and to support teaching, learning, and research at their institutions — **academic librarians can play a crucial role** in setting up students for success.

### What is information literacy?

The American Library Association defines information literacy as a set of abilities whereby individuals can “recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information.”\*

### Fundamental information literacy skills

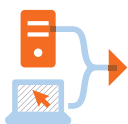
An information literate person should be able to:



**DETERMINE**  
the extent of  
information  
needed



**ACCESS**  
the needed  
information effectively  
and efficiently



**INCORPORATE**  
selected information  
into one's  
knowledge base



**EVALUATE**  
information and its  
sources critically



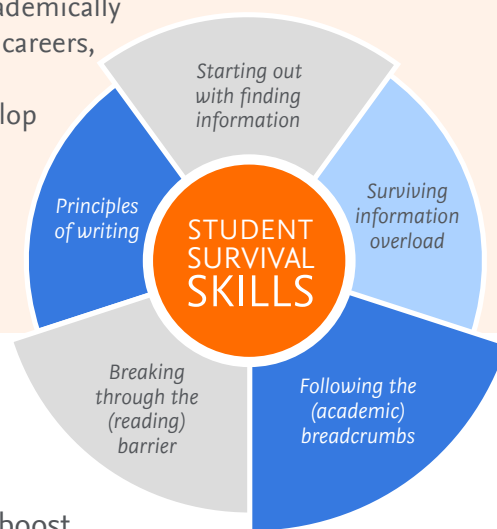
**UNDERSTAND**  
the legal and other issues  
surrounding the use of  
information; access and  
use information ethically  
and legally



**USE**  
information effectively  
to accomplish a specific  
purpose†

### Student survival skills

To thrive academically and in their careers, students should develop **5 essential capabilities:**



### Librarians can help

Librarians can boost students' information literacy skills by taking these **5 action steps:**

- 1** **Ensure** students are informed about library services
- 2** **Recommend** strategies for discovering content
- 3** **Educate** students on how to analyze content
- 4** **Introduce** students to the research community
- 5** **Start** students on the path to becoming a peer reviewer (optional; for relevant academic fields)

#### Find out more

Elsevier is committed to supporting librarians in their efforts to help students and faculty in their academic journeys. To learn more about how information literacy extends beyond the classroom — and how we can help — visit us at:

[elsevier.com/sciencedirect/higher-education](http://elsevier.com/sciencedirect/higher-education)

#### SOURCES

\* American Library Association, <https://libguides.ala.org/InformationEvaluation/Infolit>

† American Library Association, <http://www.ala.org/acrl/sites/ala.org/acrl/files/content/issues/infolit/framework1.pdf>