

# Information Literacy:

The  
**key**  
to  
Lifelong  
Learning



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## What is Information Literacy?

Information literacy:

... encompasses the "ability to locate, evaluate, and use information to become independent lifelong learners"

– *Southern Association of  
Colleges and Schools,  
Commission on Colleges*

## What abilities characterize an information literate person?

An information literate person:

- ... determines the nature and extent of the information needed,
- ... accesses needed information effectively and efficiently,
- ... evaluates information and its sources critically,
- ... uses information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose, and
- ... uses information ethically and legally.

**“Information Literacy  
Competency Standards  
for Higher Education”**

*– Association of College  
and Research Libraries*





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## **How can the university community help students build information literacy skills?**

Preparing students to live and work effectively in an information-abundant society involves the entire university community. Key components of information literacy education include:

- ... integrating information literacy instruction into core undergraduate courses,
- ... strengthening the information components of graduate research seminars,
- ... providing professional development opportunities for faculty, and
- ... partnering among campus groups to achieve common goals related to information literacy.

## **How can I learn more about information literacy and related initiatives at UT?**

... Explore the Libraries' Information Literacy Web Site — [www.lib.utk.edu/instruction/infolit/infolit.html](http://www.lib.utk.edu/instruction/infolit/infolit.html)

... Participate in library-sponsored workshops and seminars that extend your opportunities for learning.

... Contact your Subject Librarian — [www.lib.utk.edu/refs/reference/services.html](http://www.lib.utk.edu/refs/reference/services.html)

— or —

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