What Is Information Literacy?

Information Literacy and the Library
The mission of libraries is to provide access to information. Before people could find information by using the Internet, this meant you would use the library to track down information you needed for academic, professional, or personal needs. Once it became very easy to access information via the Internet, this changed how the library helps a person get access to information. With so much information available, the library can help you make sure that the information you gather from your research is from a reliable, factual resource, and not something that is incorrect or, worse, deliberately misleading. That is why libraries focus on promoting information literacy.

How do you decide if information you’re getting is good information?

Information literacy means knowing what information you need, finding it, and deciding if it is good information or not. It is a process, or a series of steps, to use when you need information to complete a project or solve a problem.

~Source: Study.com

Think “TRAP” to Evaluate Sources

Timeliness
- When was this published?
- Has it ever been updated?
- Do I need up-to-date information?
- Would an older source be better?

Relevance
- Does this discuss at least part my topic?
- Does this allow me to build on the topic?
- Does this provide a point I can disprove?

Authority
- Who is the author, publisher or creator of this source?
- Does the source tell me anything about the author?
- Is the author a qualified authority on this topic?
- Where did the author get their information?

Purpose
- Is the source peer-reviewed?
- What is the purpose?
- Is the purpose stated clearly?
- Who is the intended audience?
- Is my topic still important in the field?

This is an important question that libraries and educators have been focusing on in recent years. Here are some questions you can ask yourself about a source (from “School Library Journal”):

- Who is the author/producer/creator of the message?
- Who is the audience?
- What techniques are being used to get our attention and to make a message believable?
- Who benefits from a message?

Who or what is omitted and why?

How do I evaluate sources I access?

When you find an information source, you can think of the acronym “TRAP” to decide if what you have accessed is a reliable resource. TRAP stands for “Timeliness, Relevance, Authority, Purpose.”

Information Literacy at MassBay Library
If you ever need assistance with your homework or research of any kind, we are always here to help. See a reference librarian for assistance.
Use Research Databases for Reliable Information

Article by: Nina Oria-Loureiro & Bridget Madden

When you need articles for class, our research databases are the place to go!

What is a research database?
A research database is a compilation of all sorts of credible articles and information that you are able to search through using keywords and phrases. You want to use a research database when:

- You are asked to use “scholarly” or “peer reviewed” sources.
- You are looking for credible sources.
- You are looking for “Full Text” articles.
- You want to easily find a citation for the articles you read.
- You are looking for background information on your topic.
- You want to be alerted of new articles pertaining to your topic.

MassBay Library provides access to these databases, which provide background and overview information.

- **Credo:** This is a great place to start your research, as it provides content from encyclopedias, dictionaries, thesauri, and more! Credo provides a broader overview of subjects that can be helpful in figuring out what keywords will aid your search. Credo can even link you to articles found in our other databases.

- **Opposing Viewpoints in Context:** Provides a range of views on current social issues from credible resources including journals, newspapers, and websites.

- **Topic Finder:** Use keywords to make visual relationships between concepts and topics making it easier to narrow or broaden a topic.

Click **EBSCOHost** to find multidisciplinary and subject-specific databases with many articles available in full text. The health science database CINAHL is a popular one available on EBSCO.

On EBSCO you will be prompted to select the databases you wish to search. You can click specific databases that pertain to your topic or check “Select all” and begin your search by typing keywords about your topic into the search box.

Another database collection you can choose is Gale PowerSearch. When you click on Gale you will be prompted to select the databases you wish to search. You can click specific databases that pertain to your topic or check “Select all” and begin your search by typing keywords about your topic into the search box.

If you are working from home or somewhere else off-campus, you will be prompted to enter your library barcode in order to log onto the databases. You can find your barcode on the back of your OneCard or by logging on to Bay Navigator.

To start your search, you can also use OneSearch! from EBSCO Discovery Service, which is a one-stop search engine for MassBay students. It searches EBSCOHost, Gale Power Search, Credo Reference, HEIN Online, Videos, Books, and eBooks, all in one search. The One Search! search bar is at the top of the Library Homepage. Click on the “One Search! Search Everything” bar at the top of the library homepage to access One Search! While it may seem easier to simply type your query into Google, there are key reasons you should use sources from the library databases. First, you can access full text articles. Oftentimes sources will ask you to pay for subscription to access it. Second, with a database search you have the ability to narrow and limit your searches effectively. And finally—and most importantly—you can conduct your research knowing that the source you are using is credible.

If you want to learn more about how to search effectively check out Library Research LibGuide located under “Help with Homework” on the Library homepage or talk to one of our Reference Librarians.

**MassBay Libraries**

**One Search!**
Click here to search for articles, books, videos and more...

**ONE SEARCH! SEARCH EVERYTHING**

**Your MassBay Library Card**

When you sign up for classes, you are issued a library card number. It’s the number under the barcode on the back of your OneCard. With your library card you can borrow the reserve textbooks for your classes, take out books from the regular library collection, request books and other materials through the interlibrary loan system, access databases for articles, encyclopedia entries and other resources, plus lots more! For more information about your library card, go to: [http://massbay.libguides.com/librarycard](http://massbay.libguides.com/librarycard)

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The Basics: How to Find a Book at the MassBay Library Framingham Campus

Library Framingham Campus, here are tips on how to search for a book in our new catalog. Let’s say you are looking for a book about Florence Nightingale. Go to www.massbay.edu/library, or from any MassBay page, click on “Academics” then scroll to “MassBay Library.”

- Click on the “Books-->” option (click twice)
- Click on the HELM icon
- Type the keywords for your search in the search box (In this case, “Florence Nightingale”)
- Then click “Go” button to the right
- To narrow your search to just books located at MassBay, go to the column on the left-hand side of the page and under “Holding Libraries” and choose the campus you want to search, such as “MassBay Community College – Framingham”
- Only the MassBay Community College – Framingham holdings (meaning the books available at the library) will appear.

Check that the title is available. Next to the word “Availability” in the title listing, it will say ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR LOAN. If it is, that means the books should be on the shelf, under the Call Number. Note the Call Number, then head to the stacks (bookshelves) to retrieve the book and check it out.

If you have any questions, ask the library staff to assist you. You can also call the Framingham Campus Library at 508-270-4210. (The Wellesley campus library is 781-239-2610). We’re also available on email at “askalibrarian@massbay.edu” or text at 781-252-7377. We can help you locate books, work on research and find lots of other information. Get in touch! We are very happy to help you!

Look for lots more information about HELM in the forthcoming Volume 8, Issue 1 Fall 2018 Special “HELM” Edition of the Newsletter, due out later this semester.

Have a suggestion for the library or the newsletter? Let us know! We’d love to hear from you!

Use MassBay Library’s LibGuides for Help with Homework

LibGuides are webpages featuring content written by MassBay Library staff to help with your homework and classwork. LibGuides feature “research assistance, subject guides, and useful resources compiled by your friendly librarians.” If you’ve had library instruction as part of your class, the librarian probably used a LibGuide to go with the classwork. Explore all the LibGuides and what they can offer you for help with homework, classwork, and general information and knowledge at: http://massbay.libguides.com/browse.php

Our Newsletters and Bulletins Are All Online
http://massbay.libguides.com/framinghamnewsletters
The Importance of Information Literacy

Editorial By: Karen Delorey

IS IT TRUE? Can we ever know the truth?

Truth is one of the fundamental subjects in philosophy. It has been a primary topic of discussion for thousands of years! But, truth, like knowledge, has proven surprisingly difficult to define.

Perceptions

Take this image for instance. Is it a vase, or is it two faces? What you perceive may not be the same as others.

Why is Information Literacy Important?

Information literacy is important because it makes you think about the questions you ask and how to find and understand the “answers” you find. It means developing and using problem-solving approaches and thinking skills when finding information, forming opinions and evaluating sources. And it fosters successful, confident, lifelong learners, able to fine, understand, interpret and apply quality information to meet all information needs as a student, worker, parent, consumer, patient, and citizen!

If you would like to talk about information literacy or schedule a Library Research/Information Literacy session for your class reach out to our Reference/Instruction Librarian, Karen Delorey: kdelorey@massbay.edu

Library Collection Spotlight: the US Constitution and Constitution Day

ATTENTION FACULTY: WE'RE HERE TO HELP!
The library can support your teaching and student success.

We can answer questions and provide information about Library programs, services, and resources for your courses. Additionally the Librarian offers help with:

- instructional sessions for general or subject-specific research in your classroom, tailored to your students’ needs
- providing materials such as books, periodicals, videos and online resources that support your curriculum
- development of online guides to support your course’s research assignments and projects

If you’d like to learn more or schedule a class session, contact Karen Delorey, Coordinator of Library Services: at kdelorey@massbay.edu, at 508-270-4217 (x4217) or come into the Library.

Still, a man hears what he wants to hear
And disregards the rest.
~ Simon & Garfunkel, (1970), The Boxer