

## And They Said...

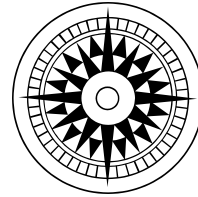
“Reading is to the mind what  
exercise is to the body.”

Sir Richard Steele

“No matter how busy you think you  
are, you must find time for reading,  
or surrender yourself to self-chosen  
ignorance.” Confucious

“Today a reader, tomorrow a  
leader.” Margaret Fuller

“The more you read, the more  
things you will know. The more that  
you learn, the more places you’ll  
go.” Dr. Seuss



For more information about  
Information Literacy,  
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## First Year Experience Program (FYEX) at Shepherd University

➤➤ Information Literacy  
Competencies: The  
How, What, and Why



FYEX Instructor Workshop  
August 11, 2011

## What is Information Literacy?

The American Library Association has stated that in order to be information literate, “a person must be able to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information.”<sup>1</sup>

In other words, an information literate individual should be able to:

**Define** (Define the information need, problem, or question)

**Find** (Locate, access, and retrieve the information from a variety of print, electronic, and human information sources)



**Evaluate** (Assess the credibility, currency, reliability, validity, and appropriateness of the information retrieved)

**Organize** (Compile the information so it can be used to meet the information need, solve the problem, or answer the question)

**Communicate** (Communicate the information legally and ethically using a variety of channels directed at a range of audiences)<sup>2</sup>

## Why is Information Literacy part of Shepherd’s FYEX program?

Shepherd’s Strategic Plan states:

“In order to best prepare our students for their professional and personal lives, we need to improve the quality of learning across the curriculum and move toward the goals set forth in the “Liberal Education and America’s Promise (LEAP) curriculum.”<sup>3</sup>

The LEAP curriculum identifies Information Literacy as a key component in a set of intellectual and practical skills (including critical and creative thinking, written and oral communication, quantitative literacy, teamwork, and problem solving) which are needed by today’s college and university students.<sup>4</sup>

## How can I incorporate Information Literacy into my First Year Experience class?

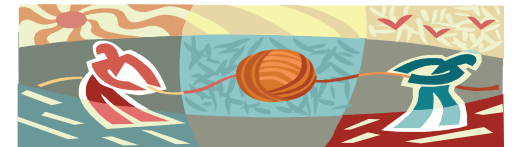
Scarborough Library offers numerous ways for you to include Information Literacy competencies in your Interest Group class. You could choose to offer any of the following in your course:

- Self-guided library tour
- Staff-led library tour

- Searchpath tutorials
- Custom-designed activity

Library staff will help you plan and coordinate an activity which is useful (and fun!) for your class. We can provide details on ways to evaluate and assess the activity you select.

Keep in mind that FYEX courses are foundational courses - as such, our Information Literacy activities will support the goal of introducing students to University life. Additional opportunities exist throughout the Shepherd curriculum (research methods courses in the majors, capstone courses, etc.) to develop and refine Information Literacy skills.



Notes:

1. American Library Association. Presidential Committee on Information Literacy Final Report. (Chicago: American Library Association, 1989).
2. *100% Information Literacy Success*, 2nd ed., 2012.
3. Shepherd University Strategic Plan Executive Summary 2009, <http://www.shepherd.edu/university/strategic-plan.pdf>.
4. Liberal Education and America’s Promise (LEAP), <http://www.aacu.org/Leap/vision.cfm>.