

Information and Digital Literacies Statement

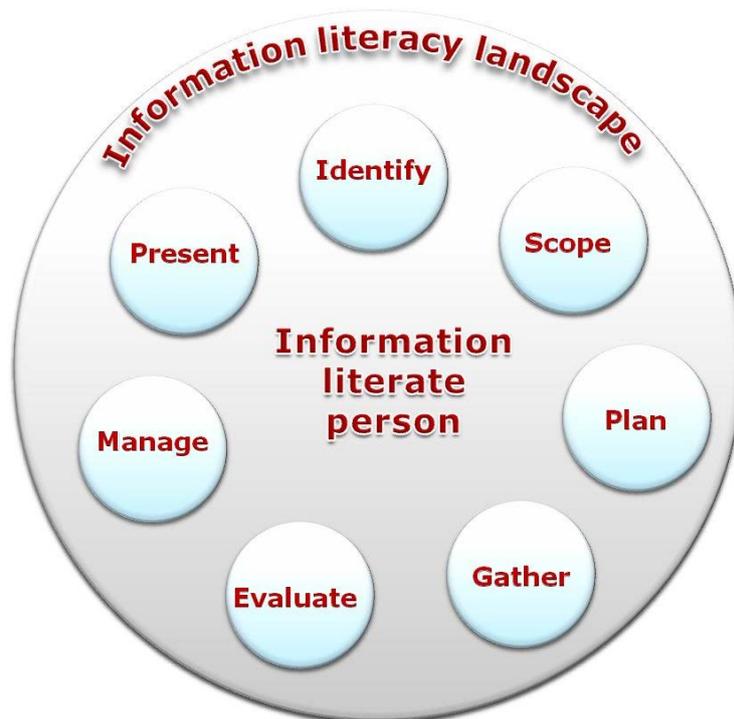
In the Higher Education environment students need information skills to develop self-directed, independent learning.

In order to support students to find the most appropriate resources to improve their understanding and increase their key employability skills, we must equip students with the ability to “gather, use, manage, synthesise and create information and data in an ethical manner and will have the information skills to do so effectively”.¹

Increasing integration of technologies into everyday life means we all need to have the skills to enable us to communicate and transmit information effectively. These skills are digital literacies.

What are information literacy skills?

The SCONUL information skills model defines the abilities and understandings that constitute information literacy. These include seven key attributes which are:



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These seven key attributes require students to have skills and competencies, as well as attitudes and understanding in their learning and research, into employment and throughout their life.

Individual academic disciplines will apply the model appropriately to their area of expertise.

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What are digital literacies?

The University of Bradford Employability strategy identifies these aspects of Digital literacy, in addition to the Information literacies above.

- IT Literacy
 - Ability to identify, use and evaluate digital technology and applications.
- Effective digital communication and collaboration
 - Ability to develop and engage in a culturally and socially appropriate context with digital networks, and understand issues of online identity, reputation and safety.

How can we enhance development of these literacies

Subject librarians liaise with schools to include information skills as part of the curriculum with these aims:

To:

- Foster lifelong learning
- Improve student awareness and use of a more diverse range of resources
- Enable autonomous learning
- Develop critical thinking
- Increase student confidence in finding best evidence available in their subject area
- Enhance digital literacy
- Avoid plagiarism
- Improve referencing

Information literacy skills development at Bradford:

- Tailored sessions throughout the students course (from induction to dissertation)
 - Sessions are designed for each specific group of students to ensure relevance to the students' current need.
- One to one support through appointments
- Workshopsⁱⁱⁱ.
- Drop ins and tutorials

ⁱ SCONUL (2011) *The SCONUL seven pillars of information literacy : core model for higher education* [online] Available from: <http://www.sconul.ac.uk/sites/default/files/documents/coremodel.pdf> (accessed 9th July 2012) p.3

ⁱⁱ SCONUL (2011) *Doughnut* [online] Available from: <http://www.sconul.ac.uk/sites/default/files/documents/doughnut.jpg> (Accessed 9th July 2012)

ⁱⁱⁱ Full list of workshops available at: <http://www.bradford.ac.uk/lss/lssworkshops/index.php?section=library>