Information Literacy Statement

Columbia Southern University librarians believe graduates should be information literate. For that reason, CSU students must be provided an opportunity to learn information literacy skills. These skills will transfer into a graduate’s workplace and support that individual’s occupational success.

Teaching information literacy skills is a team activity involving librarians and faculty. Learning objectives within Columbia Southern University courses, information conveyed through course syllabi, and instructional activities assigned in course units reflect the principles of information literacy. The library supports these course initiatives through services and resources designed to further the learning process of information literacy to all CSU students.

Six Skill Sets of the Information Literate Individual

- The ability to recognize what and how much information is needed
- The ability to create an effective and efficient search strategy for the needed information
- The ability to analyze the retrieved information and evaluate its sources
- The ability to enhance one’s own understanding with the selected information
- The ability to use information effectively in order to achieve a desired outcome
- The ability to use information ethically and legally

Students are introduced to the CSU Online Library in each course syllabus through information about library services as well as course assignments which include varying degrees of reading and researching in the library collection. This ensures that the student uses library resources and the course professor then evaluates the student’s effectiveness when locating and selecting appropriate research information.

To enable and complete this learning process, professional librarians provide personalized reference service and ensure appropriate skill sets are enhanced for each student. Instructional resources that teach specific library and information skills reinforce the development of information literacy initiated within the Columbia Southern University curriculum.