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# **NSSE 2016 Topical Module Report**

## **Experiences with Information Literacy**

Tennessee Technological University

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## About This Topical Module

Developed in collaboration with college and university librarians, this module asks students about their use of information and how much their instructors emphasized the proper use of information sources. This module complements questions on the core survey about higher-order learning and how much writing students do.

## Comparison Group

This section summarizes how this module's comparison group was identified, including selection criteria and whether the default option was taken. This is followed by the resulting list of institutions represented in the 'Information Literacy' column of this report.

Group label	Information Literacy
Date submitted	5/5/16
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution retained the default comparison group (all module participants).
Group description	All other current- and prior-year NSSE institutions who administered module "Experiences with Information Literacy"

## Information Literacy (N=98)

Abilene Christian University (Abilene, TX)	Emmanuel College (Boston, MA)*
Adelphi University (Garden City, NY)*	Ferris State University (Grand Rapids, MI)
Albright College (Reading, PA)	Fitchburg State University (Fitchburg, MA)*
Alfred University (Alfred, NY)*	Georgia Gwinnett College (Lawrenceville, GA)*
Alverno College (Milwaukee, WI)*	Grand Valley State University (Allendale, MI)
American Public University System (Charles Town, WV)	Greensboro College (Greensboro, NC)
Aquinas College (Grand Rapids, MI)*	Howard University (Washington, DC)*
Assumption College (Worcester, MA)	Indiana University Kokomo (Kokomo, IN)*
Belmont Abbey College (Belmont, NC)*	Indiana University of Pennsylvania (Indiana, PA)
Berry College (Mount Berry, GA)	Indiana University South Bend (South Bend, IN)*
Bethany College (Lindsborg, KS)*	Kutztown University of Pennsylvania (Kutztown, PA)*
Binghamton University (State University of New York) (Binghamton, NY)	Le Moyne College (Syracuse, NY)*
Biola University (La Mirada, CA)*	Lincoln Christian University (Lincoln, IL)*
Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania (Bloomsburg, PA)	Lock Haven University (Lock Haven, PA)
Bowling Green State University (Bowling Green, OH)	MacMurray College (Jacksonville, IL)*
Brenau University (Gainesville, GA)	Mansfield University of Pennsylvania (Mansfield, PA)*
Brigham Young University-Hawaii (Laie, HI)	Middle Tennessee State University (Murfreesboro, TN)
California State University San Marcos (San Marcos, CA)	Millersville University of Pennsylvania (Millersville, PA)*
California University of Pennsylvania (California, PA)*	Northeastern State University (Tahlequah, OK)
Cameron University (Lawton, OK)	Ohio State University at Newark, The (Newark, OH)
Cedar Crest College (Allentown, PA)*	Ohio State University-Lima Campus (Lima, OH)
Champlain College (Burlington, VT)*	Ohio State University-Mansfield Campus (Mansfield, OH)
Cheyney University of Pennsylvania (Cheyney, PA)	Ohio State University-Marion Campus (Marion, OH)
Clarion University of Pennsylvania (Clarion, PA)	Ohio State University, The (Columbus, OH)
Daemen College (Amherst, NY)*	Oregon Institute of Technology (Klamath Falls, OR)*
Dillard University (New Orleans, LA)	Ouachita Baptist University (Arkadelphia, AR)
East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania (East Stroudsburg, PA)	Pratt Institute (Brooklyn, NY)*
Eastern Connecticut State University (Willimantic, CT)	Radford University (Radford, VA)
Eastern Michigan University (Ypsilanti, MI)	San Diego Christian College (El Cajon, CA)*
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania (Edinboro, PA)	Scripps College (Claremont, CA)

## Information Literacy (N=98), continued

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Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania (Shippensburg, PA)  
Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania (Slippery Rock, PA)\*  
Southern Utah University (Cedar City, UT)  
St. Bonaventure University (Saint Bonaventure, NY)  
Temple University (Philadelphia, PA)  
Texas State University (San Marcos, TX)  
Towson University (Towson, MD)  
Trinity Western University (Langley, BC)  
Université de Sherbrooke (Sherbrooke, QC)  
University of Arizona, The (Tucson, AZ)\*  
University of Baltimore (Baltimore, MD)  
University of California-Merced (Merced, CA)\*  
University of Charleston (Charleston, WV)  
University of Hawai'i at Manoa (Honolulu, HI)\*  
University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu (Kapolei, HI)  
University of Louisiana at Lafayette (Lafayette, LA)  
University of Louisville (Louisville, KY)\*  
University of Massachusetts Boston (Boston, MA)\*  
University of Massachusetts Lowell (Lowell, MA)  
University of Mississippi (University, MS)  
University of Montana (Missoula, MT)  
University of Montevallo (Montevallo, AL)  
University of North Carolina at Greensboro, The (Greensboro, NC)  
University of Phoenix - Arizona/ONLINE (Tempe, AZ)\*  
University of Phoenix - Texas (Austin, TX)\*  
University of Phoenix - Utah (Salt Lake City, UT)\*  
University of San Diego (San Diego, CA)\*  
University of Tampa, The (Tampa, FL)  
University of Tennessee Martin, The (Martin, TN)  
Ursuline College (Pepper Pike, OH)  
Utica College (Utica, NY)\*  
Valparaiso University (Valparaiso, IN)  
Wartburg College (Waverly, IA)  
West Chester University of Pennsylvania (West Chester, PA)  
West Texas A&M University (Canyon, TX)  
Wheeling Jesuit University (Wheeling, WV)\*  
William Paterson University of New Jersey (Wayne, NJ)  
Winona State University (Winona, MN)\*

\*2015 participant

### First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				Tennessee Tech		Information Literacy		Tennessee Tech	Information Literacy	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<b>1. During the current school year, about how often have you done the following?</b>										
a. Completed an assignment that used an information source (book, article, website, etc.) other than required course readings	INL01a	1	Never	10	3	512	2	<b>2.9</b>	3.2 ***	-0.30
		2	Sometimes	79	31	4,460	19			
		3	Often	91	35	8,240	36			
		4	Very often	82	31	9,494	43			
		Total		262	100	22,706	100			
b. Worked on a paper or project that had multiple smaller assignments such as an outline, annotated bibliography, rough draft, etc.	INL01b	1	Never	34	12	1,155	5	<b>2.6</b>	3.0 ***	-0.39
		2	Sometimes	92	35	5,690	26			
		3	Often	82	32	8,602	38			
		4	Very often	55	20	7,178	31			
		Total		263	100	22,625	100			
c. Received feedback from an instructor that improved your use of information resources (source selection, proper citation, etc.)	INL01c	1	Never	33	11	1,165	5	<b>2.6</b>	2.9 ***	-0.33
		2	Sometimes	85	34	6,135	27			
		3	Often	95	38	8,887	39			
		4	Very often	49	18	6,398	29			
		Total		262	100	22,585	100			
d. Completed an assignment that used the library's electronic collection of articles, books, and journals (JSTOR, EBSCO, LexisNexis, ProQuest, etc.)	INL01d	1	Never	74	28	4,238	18	<b>2.2</b>	2.5 ***	-0.33
		2	Sometimes	87	33	7,592	32			
		3	Often	74	29	6,158	27			
		4	Very often	26	10	4,611	22			
		Total		261	100	22,599	100			
e. Decided not to use an information source in a course assignment due to its questionable quality	INL01e	1	Never	79	28	5,704	26	<b>2.1</b>	2.2 *	-0.12
		2	Sometimes	106	42	8,945	39			
		3	Often	55	23	5,309	23			
		4	Very often	21	7	2,628	12			
		Total		261	100	22,586	100			
f. Changed the focus of a paper or project based on information you found while researching the topic	INL01f	1	Never	62	22	3,690	17	<b>2.2</b>	2.3 *	-0.14
		2	Sometimes	113	44	9,760	44			
		3	Often	59	24	6,178	26			
		4	Very often	28	10	2,932	13			
		Total		262	100	22,560	100			
g. Looked for a reference that was cited in something you read	INL01g	1	Never	60	21	3,716	15	<b>2.3</b>	2.5 ***	-0.24
		2	Sometimes	103	40	8,211	36			
		3	Often	71	29	6,996	31			
		4	Very often	26	10	3,619	17			
		Total		260	100	22,542	100			
h. Identified how a book, article, or creative work has contributed to a field of study	INL01h	1	Never	70	26	4,457	19	<b>2.2</b>	2.4 ***	-0.23
		2	Sometimes	106	40	8,448	37			
		3	Often	62	25	6,317	28			
		4	Very often	25	9	3,273	15			
		Total		263	100	22,495	100			

### First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				Tennessee Tech		Information Literacy		Tennessee Tech	Information Literacy	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<b>2. During the current school year, how much have your instructors emphasized the following?</b>										
a. Not plagiarizing another author's work	INL02a	1	Very little	5	2	393	2	<b>3.5</b>	3.6	-.09
		2	Some	21	8	1,418	6			
		3	Quite a bit	53	23	4,711	20			
		4	Very much	182	67	16,082	71			
			Total	261	100	22,604	100			
b. Appropriately citing the sources used in a paper or project	INL02b	1	Very little	9	3	406	2	<b>3.2</b>	3.5 ***	-.38
		2	Some	48	20	2,015	9			
		3	Quite a bit	75	29	6,116	26			
		4	Very much	131	48	14,028	63			
			Total	263	100	22,565	100			
c. Using scholarly or peer reviewed sources in your course assignments	INL02c	1	Very little	24	8	924	4	<b>3.0</b>	3.3 ***	-.31
		2	Some	59	24	3,423	16			
		3	Quite a bit	72	28	6,868	30			
		4	Very much	108	40	11,319	50			
			Total	263	100	22,534	100			
d. Questioning the quality of information sources	INL02d	1	Very little	28	11	1,351	7	<b>2.9</b>	3.1 ***	-.25
		2	Some	69	27	4,501	20			
		3	Quite a bit	70	26	7,029	30			
		4	Very much	95	36	9,620	43			
			Total	262	100	22,501	100			
e. Using practices (terminology, methods, writing style, etc.) of a specific major or field of study	INL02e	1	Very little	32	12	1,862	9	<b>2.8</b>	3.0 ***	-.21
		2	Some	69	26	5,180	23			
		3	Quite a bit	76	30	6,660	29			
		4	Very much	84	31	8,693	40			
			Total	261	100	22,395	100			
<b>3. How much has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in using information effectively?</b>										
	INL03	1	Very little	5	2	624	3	<b>2.9</b>	3.1 *	-.16
		2	Some	67	26	4,355	19			
		3	Quite a bit	127	48	10,286	44			
		4	Very much	64	24	7,281	33			
			Total	263	100	22,546	100			

\*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the endnotes page for the key to triangle symbols.

### Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				Tennessee Tech		Information Literacy		Tennessee Tech	Information Literacy	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<b>1. During the current school year, about how often have you done the following?</b>										
a. Completed an assignment that used an information source (book, article, website, etc.) other than required course readings	INL01a	1	Never	8	2	631	2	<b>3.2</b>	3.4 ***	-0.21 ▽
		2	Sometimes	76	19	4,283	14			
		3	Often	138	36	8,934	28			
		4	Very often	178	43	17,062	56			
		Total		400	100	30,910	100			
b. Worked on a paper or project that had multiple smaller assignments such as an outline, annotated bibliography, rough draft, etc.	INL01b	1	Never	47	12	2,427	8	<b>2.7</b>	2.9 ***	-0.19 ▽
		2	Sometimes	127	32	7,886	26			
		3	Often	105	27	9,820	31			
		4	Very often	121	29	10,716	34			
		Total		400	100	30,849	100			
c. Received feedback from an instructor that improved your use of information resources (source selection, proper citation, etc.)	INL01c	1	Never	33	9	2,504	9	<b>2.8</b>	2.8	-0.06
		2	Sometimes	125	33	8,627	29			
		3	Often	127	31	10,413	33			
		4	Very often	112	28	9,256	30			
		Total		397	100	30,800	100			
d. Completed an assignment that used the library's electronic collection of articles, books, and journals (JSTOR, EBSCO, LexisNexis, ProQuest, etc.)	INL01d	1	Never	112	28	3,932	13	<b>2.3</b>	2.8 ***	-0.55 ▽
		2	Sometimes	140	36	7,723	25			
		3	Often	72	19	8,058	26			
		4	Very often	75	17	11,077	36			
		Total		399	100	30,790	100			
e. Decided not to use an information source in a course assignment due to its questionable quality	INL01e	1	Never	108	28	8,100	27	<b>2.2</b>	2.2	-0.05
		2	Sometimes	157	40	11,600	38			
		3	Often	75	19	6,750	21			
		4	Very often	58	13	4,367	14			
		Total		398	100	30,817	100			
f. Changed the focus of a paper or project based on information you found while researching the topic	INL01f	1	Never	101	26	5,356	18	<b>2.2</b>	2.3 *	-0.11 ▽
		2	Sometimes	155	38	13,402	44			
		3	Often	89	24	7,722	24			
		4	Very often	52	12	4,316	13			
		Total		397	100	30,796	100			
g. Looked for a reference that was cited in something you read	INL01g	1	Never	70	17	4,101	13	<b>2.4</b>	2.6 ***	-0.19 ▽
		2	Sometimes	161	41	10,607	34			
		3	Often	102	26	9,320	30			
		4	Very often	66	17	6,748	22			
		Total		399	100	30,776	100			
h. Identified how a book, article, or creative work has contributed to a field of study	INL01h	1	Never	98	24	5,215	17	<b>2.3</b>	2.5 ***	-0.21 ▽
		2	Sometimes	149	39	10,799	35			
		3	Often	91	23	8,811	29			
		4	Very often	59	15	5,837	19			
		Total		397	100	30,662	100			

### Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				Tennessee Tech		Information Literacy		Tennessee Tech	Information Literacy	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<b>2. During the current school year, how much have your instructors emphasized the following?</b>										
a. Not plagiarizing another author's work	INL02a	1	Very little	16	5	972	3	<b>3.4</b>	3.5 **	-0.15 ▽
		2	Some	39	10	2,662	9			
		3	Quite a bit	95	25	6,359	20			
		4	Very much	248	60	20,867	68			
			Total	398	100	30,860	100			
b. Appropriately citing the sources used in a paper or project	INL02b	1	Very little	23	6	1,049	4	<b>3.2</b>	3.4 ***	-0.29 ▽
		2	Some	52	14	3,085	10			
		3	Quite a bit	120	32	7,620	24			
		4	Very much	202	48	19,023	62			
			Total	397	100	30,777	100			
c. Using scholarly or peer reviewed sources in your course assignments	INL02c	1	Very little	32	9	1,762	6	<b>3.1</b>	3.3 ***	-0.26 ▽
		2	Some	70	19	3,869	13			
		3	Quite a bit	113	28	7,542	25			
		4	Very much	184	44	17,565	56			
			Total	399	100	30,738	100			
d. Questioning the quality of information sources	INL02d	1	Very little	47	13	3,017	11	<b>2.8</b>	3.0 **	-0.14 ▽
		2	Some	104	28	6,385	21			
		3	Quite a bit	98	23	8,354	27			
		4	Very much	150	36	12,902	41			
			Total	399	100	30,658	100			
e. Using practices (terminology, methods, writing style, etc.) of a specific major or field of study	INL02e	1	Very little	25	8	1,807	7	<b>3.1</b>	3.2	-0.07
		2	Some	78	20	5,359	18			
		3	Quite a bit	110	28	8,587	28			
		4	Very much	181	44	14,761	47			
			Total	394	100	30,514	100			
<b>3. How much has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in using information effectively?</b>										
	INL03	1	Very little	11	3	667	2	<b>3.2</b>	3.3	-0.08
		2	Some	57	15	4,019	14			
		3	Quite a bit	155	40	11,970	38			
		4	Very much	175	42	14,164	46			
			Total	398	100	30,820	100			

\*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the endnotes page for the key to triangle symbols.



#### First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error <sup>f</sup>		Standard deviation <sup>g</sup>		DF <sup>h</sup>	Sig. <sup>i</sup>	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
	Tennessee Tech	Tennessee Tech	Information Literacy	Tennessee Tech	Information Literacy	Tennessee Tech	Information Literacy			
								<i>Comparisons with: Information Literacy</i>		
INL01a	259	2.94	3.18	.05	.01	0.86	0.83	19,285	.000	-.30
INL01b	261	2.61	2.95	.06	.01	0.94	0.88	266	.000	-.39
INL01c	260	2.63	2.92	.06	.01	0.90	0.88	266	.000	-.33
INL01d	258	2.20	2.54	.06	.01	0.96	1.03	266	.000	-.33
INL01e	258	2.09	2.20	.06	.01	0.89	0.96	266	.034	-.12
INL01f	260	2.22	2.35	.06	.01	0.91	0.91	19,129	.021	-.14
INL01g	258	2.28	2.51	.06	.01	0.91	0.95	265	.000	-.24
INL01h	261	2.17	2.39	.06	.01	0.92	0.96	268	.000	-.23
INL02a	259	3.54	3.61	.05	.01	0.74	0.70	265	.156	-.09
INL02b	261	3.22	3.50	.05	.01	0.87	0.74	265	.000	-.38
INL02c	261	3.00	3.26	.06	.01	0.98	0.87	265	.000	-.31
INL02d	260	2.86	3.10	.06	.01	1.03	0.94	265	.000	-.25
INL02e	259	2.80	3.00	.06	.01	1.02	0.99	19,002	.001	-.21
INL03	261	2.95	3.07	.05	.01	0.76	0.81	19,124	.011	-.16

#### Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error <sup>f</sup>		Standard deviation <sup>g</sup>		DF <sup>h</sup>	Sig. <sup>i</sup>	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
	Tennessee Tech	Tennessee Tech	Information Literacy	Tennessee Tech	Information Literacy	Tennessee Tech	Information Literacy	Comparisons with: Information Literacy		
INL01a	399	3.20	3.37	.04	.00	0.82	0.80	26,551	.000	-.21
INL01b	399	2.72	2.91	.05	.01	1.01	0.96	409	.000	-.19
INL01c	396	2.78	2.83	.05	.01	0.95	0.95	26,450	.232	-.06
INL01d	397	2.25	2.84	.05	.01	1.04	1.06	26,451	.000	-.55
INL01e	396	2.17	2.22	.05	.01	0.99	1.00	26,471	.370	-.05
INL01f	395	2.23	2.33	.05	.01	0.97	0.92	26,447	.031	-.11
INL01g	397	2.43	2.62	.05	.01	0.96	0.97	26,428	.000	-.19
INL01h	395	2.28	2.49	.05	.01	0.99	0.99	26,327	.000	-.21
INL02a	397	3.41	3.52	.04	.00	0.85	0.79	406	.007	-.15
INL02b	396	3.21	3.44	.05	.01	0.91	0.82	405	.000	-.29
INL02c	397	3.07	3.31	.05	.01	0.99	0.92	26,397	.000	-.26
INL02d	397	2.83	2.98	.05	.01	1.06	1.03	408	.006	-.14
INL02e	393	3.09	3.16	.05	.01	0.97	0.95	26,203	.158	-.07
INL03	396	3.20	3.27	.04	.00	0.81	0.79	26,461	.098	-.08

## Endnotes

- a. Column percentages are weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. Counts are unweighted; column percentages cannot be replicated from counts.
- b. All statistics are weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Unless otherwise noted, statistical comparisons are two-tailed independent  $t$ -tests. Items with categorical response sets are left blank.
- c. These are the values used to calculate means. For the majority of items, these values match the codes in the data file and codebook.
- d. Effect size for independent  $t$ -tests uses Cohen's  $d$ ;  $z$ -tests use Cohen's  $h$ .
- e. Statistics are weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Categorical items are not listed.
- f. The 95% confidence interval for the population mean is equal to the sample mean plus or minus 1.96 times the standard error of the mean.
- g. A measure of the amount individual scores deviate from the mean of all the scores in the distribution.
- h. Degrees of freedom used to compute the  $t$ -tests. Values differ from  $N$ s due to weighting and whether equal variances were assumed.
- i. Statistical comparisons are two-tailed independent  $t$ -tests or  $z$ -tests. Statistical significance represents the probability that the difference between your students' mean and that of the students in the comparison group is due to chance.
- j. Statistical comparison uses  $z$ -test to compare the proportion who responded (depending on the item) "Done or in progress" or "Yes" with all who responded otherwise.
- k. Mean represents the proportion who responded (depending on the item) "Done or in progress" or "Yes."
- l. This was a new item in 2016, comparison group results do not include 2015 institutions. May not apply to all modules.

### Key to symbols:

- ▲ **Your students' average** was significantly higher ( $p < .05$ ) with an effect size at least .3 in magnitude.
- △ **Your students' average** was significantly higher ( $p < .05$ ) with an effect size less than .3 in magnitude.
- ▽ **Your students' average** was significantly lower ( $p < .05$ ) with an effect size less than .3 in magnitude.
- ▼ **Your students' average** was significantly lower ( $p < .05$ ) with an effect size at least .3 in magnitude.

Note: It is important to interpret the direction of differences relative to item wording and your institutional context.