

Rundle College



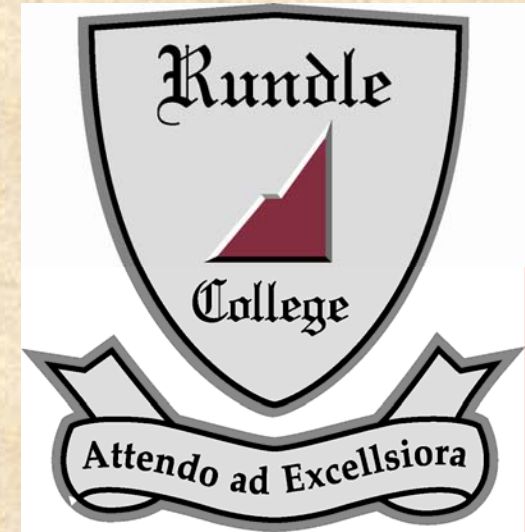
Information Literacy

presented by
the

Junior/Senior High Library

for the

Staff and Students of Rundle College





Information Literacy

What is Information Literacy?

“The abilities to recognize when information is needed and to locate, evaluate, effectively use, and communicate information in its various formats.”

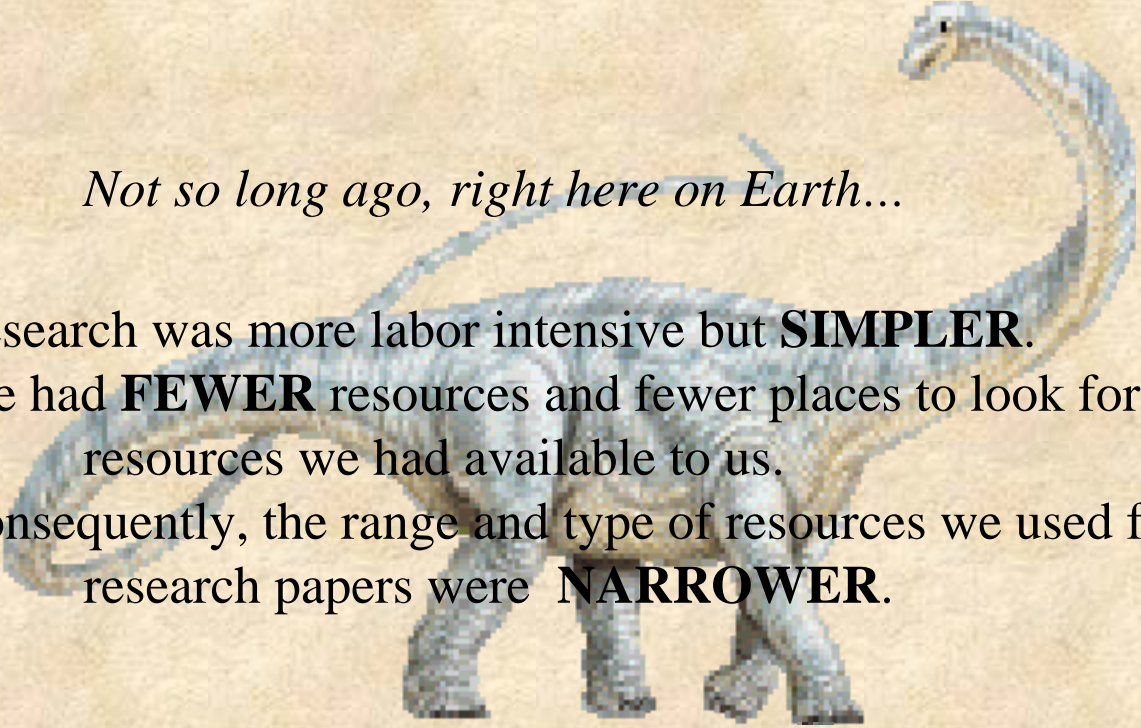
The American Library Association



Information Literacy

Why is Information Literacy Important to You?

Not so long ago, right here on Earth...

- Research was more labor intensive but **SIMPLER**.
 - We had **FEWER** resources and fewer places to look for what resources we had available to us.
 - Consequently, the range and type of resources we used for our research papers were **NARROWER**.
- 
- A large, blue and yellow dinosaur, possibly a sauropod, is depicted in the background of the slide. It is standing on a light brown, textured surface. The dinosaur's long neck is curved upwards and to the right. Its body is primarily blue with yellow accents along its back and tail. The dinosaur is positioned behind the text, partially obscured by it.



Information Literacy

Why is Information Literacy Important to You?(cont'd)

Way back then, it was understood that...

- You used books & articles you could find at your local public or academic library.
- A limited number of formats were being collected by libraries, mostly print, some microforms.
- You could search only one catalog at a time - until the early '90s it was usually a card catalog; you had no idea what the holdings of other libraries were.
- Document Delivery & Interlibrary Loan were rarely used by undergraduates at academic libraries and even less by patrons of public libraries.
- Periodical indexes were in print and searching them was very labor intensive.
- The World Wide Web was not an option



Information Literacy

Why is Information Literacy Important to You?(cont'd)

But now, in this digitalized age...

- A very wide variety of formats are collected by libraries and made available to the researcher.
- Online catalogs make it possible to search the holdings of libraries and collections all over the country and the world.
- Most of the important periodical indexes can be searched electronically, with keyword searching.
- The World Wide Web has revolutionized information sharing; information and resources that you could not have even known existed before are suddenly at your fingertips.
- There are important resources you will need to learn that are not owned by the library and which can be accessed without "passing through" the library. However, the library is often the only organization keeping track of these resources and evaluating them for you.



Information Literacy

Is There a Problem?

- We now have **so** much information, in **so** many formats, available from **so** many different sources that few people now know where to begin a research project.
- The students' **expectations**, and those of the teachers who will be grading their papers, have been **heightened** along with the increased availability of information.
- **In addition** to the **considerable skills research has always required**, you now have to know how to use the **specific protocols** and **search strategies** required of online catalogs, web sites and other electronic resources.



Information Literacy

Is There a Solution?

You need to master *Information Literacy*.





Information Literacy

The Goals of Information Literacy:

- Know **what kind** of Information is out there.
- Know **where** to find it.
- Know **how** to find it.
- Know how to **use** it.
- Know how to **evaluate** it.

You will have a **SEARCH STRATEGY** when you are able to apply this knowledge to your **TOPIC**.



Information Literacy

What Kind of Information is Out There?

Books	Interviews
Monographs	Surveys
Journals (articles)	Public Records
Documents	Technical/Scientific Reports
Newspapers (articles)	Artifacts (fossils, potsherds)
Minutes of Meetings	Dissertations/Theses
Codes/Statutes	Diaries/Letters
Statistics	Speeches
Creative Works	Web sites



Information Literacy

Where Do I Find This Information?

- ***Catalogs***
 - Nucat
 - Libweb
 - Local libraries - such as Calgary Public Library
- ***Periodical Indexes***
 - TRANweb
 - NCJRS
 - ABIinform & other Proprietary Databases
- ***Subject Specific Databases/Informational Web Sites***
 - ERIC, Infomine and others
- ***Broadcast Searching/WWW***
 - vivisimo.com
 - google.com, etc.



Information Literacy

How do I find This Information?

Print search techniques:

- Tables of Contents
- Book indexes
- Subject Searches

Electronic Search Techniques:

- Keyword vs. subject
- Boolean Connectors
- "binding the phrase"
- (nesting)
- truncation (?*)
- synonymous vocabulary
- the logic of the search



Information Literacy

How do I Use This Information?

The Literature Search:

- Creating a Bibliography
- Citations and Styles

Defining and Refining your topic:

- Seek **balance** - choose a topic that is neither too broad nor too narrow.
- Be **flexible** - alter your search techniques and your search strategy when necessary.
- **Commit** to your topic only **after** the literature search reveals enough information to support your topic.



Information Literacy

How do I Evaluate This Information?

Books & Journal Articles:

- Authority
- Accuracy
- Objectivity
- Timelines

Journal Articles:

What is a scholarly journal anyway?

Web Sites:

- Authority
- Reliability
- Timeliness
- Content
- Structure

Primary vs. Secondary Source Material



Information Literacy

We have defined and explored
Information Literacy. Good luck with your research
and remember – **you can't do it alone.**

