

TOOLS FOR INFORMATION LITERACY

ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,

Information Literacy is the set of skills needed to find, retrieve, analyze, and use information.

However, because the term is often confused with computer literacy, there are many different definitions of information literacy. A comprehensive definition of the term would include: In a narrow sense, the practical skills involved in effective use of information technology and information resources, either print or electronic.

IN A BROADER SENSE, IT

is a new liberal art which extends beyond technical skills and is conceived as the critical reflection on the nature of information itself, its technical infrastructure and its social, cultural and even philosophical context and impact.

A FULL INFORMATION LITERACY CURRICULUM WOULD INCLUDE:

- Tool literacy - The ability to use print and electronic resources including software
- Resource literacy - The ability to understand the form, format, location and access methods of information resources
- Social-structural literacy - Knowledge of how information is socially situated and produced. It includes understanding the scholarly publishing process
- Research literacy - The ability to understand and use information technology tools to carry our research including discipline-related software
- Publishing literacy - The ability to produce a text or multimedia report of the results of research

QUOTING THE ALA AGAIN,

Information literacy ... (gives) us the skills to know when we need information and where to locate it effectively and efficiently.

The sheer abundance of information, however, will not in itself create a more informed citizenry. A complementary cluster of abilities is necessary if information is to be used effectively.

IN SILS,

INLS501 and INLS509 focus on concepts and techniques for finding and evaluating information, while INLS461 will focus on concepts and the tools needed to communicate your information to users.

We will start from the baseline of the North Carolina high school computer skills requirement and build from there.

To that end, in INLS461 we will explore some basic concepts related to personal computer hardware and software and will spend quite a bit of time gaining practical experience with several Internet tools and resources.

We will also introduce concepts and practice skills germane to effective use of the power built into word processing, spreadsheet, relational database management, and presentation graphics software.

Although we will use the Microsoft Office 2007 suite of applications for many tasks, the basic concepts should provide you with skills that will enable you to be comfortable with other similar packages.

SOME OF OUR GOALS FOR THE SEMESTER INCLUDE:

1. Ability to use the Internet effectively
 - 1.1. become familiar with the Internet and its basic tools
 - 1.2. be able to use some basic Unix commands and to understand the file transfer protocol
 - 1.3. become conversant with Open Source - some of its applications, its promise and its limitations
2. Ability to create useful Web content
 - 2.1. understand the basic tools underlying the web
 - 2.2. be able to create web pages by using basic HTML, basic CSS, and using HTML editors
3. Ability to effectively format written documents
 - 3.1. understand the underlying power of markup languages in document creation software programs
 - 3.2. be able to format documents for publication
4. Ability to use spreadsheets
 - 4.1. understand the vector power of functions in spreadsheet applications
 - 4.2. be able to format spreadsheets for professional usages
5. Learn the basics of a common relational database management system

- 5.1. understand the power of related tables and the way to create new tables through queries
- 5.2. be able to work with MSAccess on a fundamental level
- 6. Ability to design and produce effective visual presentations
 - 6.1. understand the power of visual language and design
 - 6.2. be able to design and deliver effective audio/visual presentations

ALL WORK DONE IN INLS461 WILL BE DONE ON COMPUTERS...

... either on your personal laptop or on the desktop units in the SILS lab; there will be no paper products generated in this class and there is no printing requirement.

READINGS

Most of the readings for this course will be available online, but there is one required text, **WEB DESIGN IN A NUTSHELL**, 3rd Edition should be available at Student Stores.

it is useful not only for the topics we will be covering in class, but also as a reference tool for future thinking about web applications. **Be sure to get the 3rd Edition.**

To quote the publisher's web site:



Our popular reference, **WEB DESIGN IN A NUTSHELL**, has been completely rewritten and expanded to reflect the state of the art in web standards. In addition to being an authoritative reference for (X)HTML and Cascading Style Sheets, this book also provides an overview of the unique requirements of designing for the Web and gets to the nitty gritty of JavaScript and DOM Scripting, web graphics optimization, and multimedia production. It is an indispensable tool for web designers and developers of all levels.

SESSION NOTES

- will include links to a variety of additional resources, to more fully explain or expand on topics discussed in the notes. Some of the linked sources may include:
- online documentation from UNC's Academic Technology and Networks,
- other information sources available via the Web,
- or readings that will be sent to you as email attachments.

Pay attention to the schedule

- session notes will be posted prior to each class and you would do well to look over the links prior to coming to class
- if there is something that you should read prior to class, it will be included on the session notes for the session prior to the class you will be preparing for

LECTURES

LECTURES

Class sessions have online lecture notes (which will include links to supplementary readings). The notes will also include lab exercises that may either be required or recommended (pay attention to which is which), links to other related sources of information on the topic under consideration, and required readings for the subsequent session.

DAILY PLAN

1. First 10 to 15 minutes
 - 1.1. something interesting from a class member that we all need to hear about
2. Next 60 to 65 minutes
 - 2.1. lecture (mostly), examples (a lot), and discussion (some)
 - 2.2. some lecture notes will be very detailed and loaded with images
 - 2.3. some lecture notes will be spare and loaded with hyperlinks
 - 2.4. recognize that links may change over time
3. Done

Refer to the lecture notes either to prepare for what you are going to learn or to review what you have learned.

See the class schedule for links to lecture notes.

LAB INFO

You may use the computers and software in the SILS Computer Lab to do your work. During the semester, one can usually find a computer available in the lab. However, Manning 117 (the lab classroom) is often unavailable due to classes or special events being held there. Look at the schedule to see what classes are being taught in the lab classroom. Also check the lab classroom schedule posted by the classroom door because the classroom is sometimes reserved for special events.

EVALUATION

This will be a performance-oriented class and your grade will be determined by the proficiency you show on six tasks. Though they are graded evaluations, they are also good learning experiences and can also be fun to do.

- pay attention to the due dates
- tasks should be turned in by the end of the day they are due
- deadlines are listed for your time management purposes
- you may turn in a task early or on time
- the only exception is the final task which must be turned on time because this task takes the place of a final exam

If circumstances render you unable to turn in a task on time, you may negotiate a new, later, delivery date with me. If you negotiate a new delivery date and meet it, you will suffer no negative consequences. If you do not negotiate a new delivery date with me, or if you miss your negotiated date, you will lose a percentage of the timeliness points for that task for each day late. You can calculate how much lateness will cost you. You always have the opportunity to discuss any circumstances that conspire to hinder your ability to turn in an assignment on time. If you finish a task early and wish to have me look it over for completeness, I will do so and provide you feedback so that you may alter things if necessary. Of course, I can only do this if you provide it to me early enough and if I have the time available in my schedule. If you finish a task on time or late, I will grade what I receive.

THIS CLASS HAS NEITHER A MID-TERM NOR A FINAL EXAMINATION

Grades are based on class participation and the completion of six tasks. Each task will focus on the topic listed in the chart, but each succeeding task will build on the skills learned in the ones which come prior to it. All tasks will be released for view at least one class session prior to their due dates.

Task 1 will be broken up into several mini-tasks as you set up your web environment for this class. You will accomplish task 1 by sending me emails giving me the response to the mini-tasks.

Task 2 will be the URL of a web site you will construct and publish.

Tasks 3-6 will be products you will post in your web space and you will send me the URL of the location where I can download it from your web site.

1. 10% basics task
2. 20% web page task
3. 15% document markup task
4. 15% spreadsheet task

5. 15% relational database task

6. 15% presentation task

Your active participation in class activities will count for 10 percent of your total grade. Your active involvement in enhancing the learning environment for your fellow students will earn you full credit - doing nothing will earn you nothing, it's up to you. Active involvement includes asking questions about topics in such a way that your question and the answer also help your fellow classmates. Active involvement includes posting comments to the [class blog](#). You don't have to do this each day, but you will have to post a note about starters you present on the blog. And you will surely have something to say about one or more of the other starters presented to you daily

There is no doubt that everyone in the class will be an expert in at least one area and active involvement also includes offering to display your skills in an area related to the topic under discussion so that we may all learn from and with you.

Active involvement also includes asking questions through use of the class listserv or class blog. I will respond directly to each question asked. Also, if I think the rest of the class can benefit from the question and answer, I will reformat the question to preserve the anonymity of the asker and send both question and response to the list, so that everyone can benefit.

Be active and involved, but remember: quality of input far outweighs quantity. During class, you will want to respect your fellow students by not taking class time to play computer games or to read and send personal e-mail as this is an area where points can be lost. Attendance is a key indicator of your participation. It is very important that you do not miss classes, but if you do miss classes, you would be wise to talk to me about it, either before or after the session you miss.

The amount of points credited to Value Added to Class is a subjective judgment and I will be making the subjective call.

I will send a note to the list when I have finished grading a task. When you receive that note, you can go to a link on our class website to download your grade sheets. There is a userid and password associated with your directory and we will discuss them in class.

GRADING

This standard grading system is used in this class. To be explicit, when averaging grades for the semester, we will round off to two decimal places and the resultant number must equal the lower number in a grade range to reach the minimum necessary to get that letter grade. A 91.99 is a P, a 92.00 is a P+, for example.

H 95-100

H- 94

P+ 92-93

P 80-91

P- 70-79

L 60-69

F less than 60

HONOR CODE

Students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill adhere to their Code of Student Conduct. Accordingly, you all should recognize that most software applications available in the computer lab are copyrighted and cannot be copied.

We can learn much from each other and we will do that. I expect each of you to help each other. We'll discuss what we expect in terms of cooperative, collaborative, shared work and the honor code.

THE CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

Honor Code

It shall be the responsibility of every student at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to obey and support the enforcement of the Honor Code, which prohibits lying, cheating, or stealing when these actions involve academic processes or University, student or academic personnel acting in an official capacity.

Campus Code

It shall be the further responsibility of every student to abide by the Campus Code; namely, to conduct oneself so as not to impair significantly the welfare or the educational opportunities of others in the University community.

WHAT IT MEANS TO US

The system rests on several central tenets:

- the university community, including faculty and students, share a commitment to the pursuit of truth, and the dissemination of knowledge to succeeding generations of citizens devoted to the high ideals of personal honor and respect for the rights of others
- these goals can only be achieved in a setting in which intellectual honesty and personal integrity are highly valued; other individuals are trusted, respected, and fairly treated; and the responsibility for articulating and maintaining high standards is widely shared
- both students and faculty must play active roles in fostering a culture in which honor is prized and acting to remedy violations of community norms relating to academic misconduct, injuries to members of the University community, and conduct that adversely affect University operations and resources

The principles of academic honesty, integrity, and responsible citizenship govern the performance of all academic work and student conduct at the University as they have during the long life of this institution.

- your acceptance of enrollment in the University presupposes a commitment to the principles embodied in the Code of Student Conduct and a respect for the most significant Carolina tradition
- your reward is in the practice of these principles

Your participation in this course comes with the expectation that your work will be completed in full observance of the Honor Code.

- you are encouraged to work together with your fellow students and to share knowledge and learning
- however, academic dishonesty in any form is unacceptable, because any breach in academic integrity, however small, strikes destructively at the University's life and work