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# INFORMATION LITERACY

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**An Introduction**

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# INTRODUCTION

Information Literacy is knowing when and why you need information, where to find it and how to evaluate, use and communicate it in an ethical manner. [Cllip, 2004]

In today's technological world you cannot talk about Information Literacy without mentioning Digital literacy.

With the rise of Fake News it has become very hard to be able to distinguish between factual and genuine sources of information.

# 6 SKILLS OF INFORMATION LITERACY

## TASK DEFINITION

Identifying the need for information, why do you need that information? (see handout)

## INFORMATION SEEKING STRATEGIES

How are you going to find the exact information you need?  
What tools will you use?

## LOCATION AND ACCESS

Where can you find that information? How are you going to access the information?

# 6 SKILLS OF INFORMATION LITERACY

## USE OF INFORMATION

What are you going to do with the information? Use in an ethical manner, for research, commercial purposes, etc...

## SYNTHESIS

How did you use the information? Reinterpreting the information, summarising, referencing/citation, etc...

## EVALUATION

How do you know that that information is correct/factual/not Fake/mis/dis-information



# Examples of a need for Information

## ACADEMIC

Assignment question, Dissertation, retrieving research papers in favor or against a particular argument

## DIRECTIONAL

Locating a building, navigating a foreign country, identifying a shop

## PERSONAL

how to cook a particular food, locating a family member online, learning about events near your location

## PROFESSIONAL

checking how much vacation leave you have left, identifying possible job opportunities, figuring out how to meet the requirement for a promotion

# INFORMATION SEEKING BEHAVIOURS

Each individual has their own unique way of going about finding information. This is affected by a number of things such as environment, upbringing, beliefs, psychological and/or social attitudes, etc...

## Example:

How many ways can you think of in order to find/get Information about ARMs (the Government Agency)





# INTERPRETING INFORMATION

Information can not be understood in a bubble. The context in which the information was created impacts the information retrieval process.

Always be aware of the nature of the information being retrieved.

Who created it? Why? What purpose does sharing such information achieve?

## Example:

Unemployment in a country is at 5% of the general population.  
What do you make of this information?



# Group Activity



Working in a group, find information about **Male Pregnancy**.

## Discuss:

- What is the topic of the search?
- How did you find the information?
- Where did you find it?
- What do you think of the information found?
- Can you trust the information found?

# PRIMARY

Primary sources provide raw information and first-hand evidence. Examples include interview transcripts, statistical data, and works of art. A primary source gives you direct access to the subject of your research.

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# SECONDARY

Secondary sources provide second-hand information and commentary from other researchers. Examples include journal articles, reviews, and academic books. A secondary source describes, interprets, or synthesizes primary sources.



## What do you use primary sources for?

Primary sources are the foundation of original research. They allow you to:

- ✓ Make new discoveries
- ✓ Provide credible evidence for your arguments
- ✓ Give authoritative information about your topic

If you don't use any primary sources, your research may be considered unoriginal or unreliable.

## What do you use secondary sources for?

Secondary sources are good for gaining a full overview of your topic and understanding how other researchers have approached it. They often synthesize a large number of primary sources that would be difficult and time-consuming to gather by yourself. They allow you to:

- ✓ Gain background information on the topic
- ✓ Support or contrast your arguments with other researchers' ideas
- ✓ Gather information from primary sources that you can't access directly (e.g. private letters or physical documents located elsewhere)

When you conduct a [literature review](#), you can consult secondary sources to gain a thorough overview of your topic. If you want to mention a paper or study that you find cited in a secondary source, seek out the original source and cite it directly.

Remember that all primary and secondary sources must be [correctly cited](#) to avoid [plagiarism](#).

## How to tell if a source is primary or secondary

To determine if something can be used as a primary or secondary source in your research, there are some simple questions you can ask yourself:

- Does this source come from someone directly involved in the events I'm studying (primary) or from another researcher (secondary)?
- Am I interested in analyzing the source itself (primary) or only using it for background information (secondary)?
- Does the source provide original information (primary) or does it comment upon information from other sources (secondary)?

<b>Research field</b>	<b>Primary source</b>
<b>History</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Letters and diaries</li><li>• Photographs and video footage</li><li>• Official documents and records</li><li>• Physical objects</li></ul>
<b>Art and literature</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Novels and poems</li><li>• Paintings and art installations</li><li>• Films and performances</li></ul>
<b>Communication and social studies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interview transcripts</li><li>• Recordings of speeches</li><li>• Newspapers and magazines</li><li>• Social media posts</li></ul>
<b>Law and politics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Court records</li><li>• Legal texts</li><li>• Government documents</li></ul>
<b>Sciences</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Empirical studies</li><li>• Statistical data</li></ul>

# QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

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