INFORMATION LITERACY OUTCOMES

Information Literacy at CCP

Information literacy encompasses the following: identifying an information need; locating, selecting and evaluating information; and effective and ethical use of the information needed. The purpose of information literacy instruction is to prepare CCP students to engage in meaningful academic research in all curricula which require serious inquiry.

The Library faculty of the Community College of Philadelphia would like to propose the following Information Literacy Outcomes based on the framework provided by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) (http://www.acrl.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/standards/standards.pdf).

These outcomes are established in accordance with the Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education (approved by ACRL in 2000).

After completing information literacy instruction at CCP, a student will be able to:

Outcome 1:

Identify an information need and formulate a research question or thesis statement.

- Formulate a research question and a research strategy that shows an understanding of the depth/extent of topic
- Identify subject specific reference works
- Identify keywords, synonyms, related concepts
- Consider/determine the types of sources appropriate for a specific research assignment (i.e. books, articles, websites, primary, secondary, etc.)

Outcome 2:

Demonstrate basic knowledge of how information is organized in order to locate, select, and access resources, using search tools such as databases, search engines, inter-library loan, etc.

- Use the online catalog to search for books
- Locate print materials using the Dewey Decimal system (and other Library Classification Systems)
- Define a database and recognize different types (e.g. citation only or full-text)
- Use databases to search for and retrieve articles, including accessing retrieval systems from a remote location

- Narrow or broaden searches by use of Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT)
- Use appropriate identified keyword and subject headings in searches
- Use internet search engines and directories to access valid information sources including use of advanced search features
- Select and find the types of sources appropriate for a specific research assignment (i.e. books, articles, websites, etc)
- Distinguish between primary vs. secondary sources
- Distinguish between scholarly vs. popular literature
- Understand how to make use of inter-library loan or intra-library loan

Outcome 3:

Evaluate resources based on their purposes and origin.

- Determine resource integrity based on accuracy, credibility, authority, objectivity, and timeliness/currency
- Use bibliographic tools such as citations, abstracts, tables of contents, and bibliographies to determine appropriateness of source for research

Outcome 4:

Demonstrate effective use of information and accomplish objectives of a specific purpose (i.e. research project, assignment, etc.).

- Review and, if necessary, revise research question and strategy
- After identifying, locating and selecting a set of sources, determine the ones that are specifically appropriate to a research assignment
- Integrate new knowledge with prior knowledge and is able to make inferences or draw conclusions based on the information gathered
- Communicate ideas effectively

Outcome 5:

Use resources ethically and demonstrate understanding of the legal and policy issues associated with the use of information.

- Demonstrate appropriate citation and documentation methods, academic honesty, and knowledge of copyright laws
- Quote and paraphrase material appropriately and responsibly
- Avoid plagiarism
- Recognize examples of plagiarism
- Identify the parts of a citation for multiple publication types/formats
- Create a works cited page or, as required, utilizing an appropriate citation style