INFORMATION LITERACY

What is it?
Why is it important?

La Roche College
Information Literacy: What is it?

- Information literacy is a set of abilities requiring individuals to "recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information."

Source: "Information Literacy Standards for Student Learning," of Information Power: Building Partnerships for Learning
Information literacy is not the same as computer literacy (which requires a technological know-how to manipulate computer hardware and software) or library literacy (which requires the ability to use a library's collection and its services), although there is a strong relationship among all these concepts. Each of these literacy's requires some level of critical thinking.
Information Literacy: What it is?

- "Information literacy is an intellectual framework for understanding, finding, evaluating, and using information--activities which may be accomplished in part by fluency with information technology, in part by sound investigative methods, but most important, through critical discernment and reasoning.

Source: "Information Literacy Standards for Student Learning," of Information Power: Building Partnerships for Learning
Information Literacy: What is it?

- Information literacy’s focus is on content, communication, analysis, information searching, and evaluation.

- In other words, the focus is on not only being able to obtain the information, but being able to evaluate and use the information correctly.
Information Literacy: Why is it Important?

- Individuals are faced with diverse and abundant information choices. Information is available through libraries, community resources, special interest organizations, media, and the Internet.

- Increasingly, information comes to individuals in unfiltered formats, raising questions about its authenticity, validity, and reliability.
The uncertain quality and expanding quantity of information pose large challenges for society. The sheer abundance of information will not in itself create a more informed citizenry without a complementary cluster of abilities necessary to use information effectively.
The Nine Information Literacy Standards for Student Learning Information Literacy

- **Standard 1**: The student who is information literate accesses information efficiently and effectively.

- **Standard 2**: The student who is information literate evaluates information critically and competently.
The Nine Information Literacy Standards for Student Learning

- **Standard 3**: The student who is information literate uses information accurately and creatively.

- **Standard 4**: The student who is an independent learner is information literate and pursues information related to personal interests.
The Nine Information Literacy Standards for Student Learning

- **Standard 5:** The student who is an independent learner is information literate and appreciates literature and other creative expressions of information.

- **Standard 6:** The student who is an independent learner is information literate and strives for excellence in information seeking and knowledge generation.
The Nine Information Literacy Standards for Student Learning Information Literacy

- **Standard 7:** The student who contributes positively to the learning community and to society is information literate and recognizes the importance of information to a democratic society.

- **Standard 8:** The student who contributes positively to the learning community and to society is information literate and practices ethical behavior in regard to information and information technology.
Standard 9: The student who contributes positively to the learning community and to society is information literate and participates effectively in groups to pursue and generate information.
Identifying your information needs

Some questions to consider:

- What do you already know about the subject?
- Do you want general or specialized information?
- What is the central focus of your information need?
Information: Where to *find it*?

Depending on your needs, information can be found in:

- Books
- Journals- peer reviewed and non peer reviewed
- Online
- Government Documents
- Databases
Where do I find information at the Wright Library?
The John J. Wright Library webpage is a good place to start.

How to get there:
- Go to http://intranet.laroche.edu
- Click on “Resources”
- Select “Wright Library”
Evaluating information

Some questions to consider:

- What type of source is it?
- What are the author’s or producers qualifications for this topic?
- When was the information published?
- Does the source show political or cultural bias?
Evaluating information

- For a more in-depth look at evaluating sources go to:
  
  http://www.delta.edu/library/informationliteracypage.html

  Don’t forget to consult faculty. They are one of your most valuable resources!
Ethical Use

- Make sure to cite your resources and give credit to the information sources you use in your work.

- Watch out for plagiarism and copyright infringement.
Ethical Use

- Plagiarism - to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use (another's production) without crediting the source.

- Copyright - the exclusive legal right to reproduce, publish, and sell the matter and form (as of a literary, musical, or artistic work). If you use the matter or form without permission it is copyright infringement.

Source: Merriam-Webster Online
Remember . . .

- if you need help with your research the staff at the library will be happy to assist you.

- Stop in and check out the library and what it has to offer!