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**NSSE 2015 Topical Module**  
**Experiences with Information Literacy**  
University of Massachusetts Boston

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## About This Topical Module

Developed in collaboration with college and university librarians, this module asks students about their use of information and how much their instructors emphasized the proper use of information sources. This module complements questions on the core survey about higher-order learning and how much writing students do.

## Comparison Group

This section summarizes how this module's comparison group was identified, including selection criteria and whether the default option was taken. This is followed by the resulting list of institutions represented in the 'Public 4-Year Inst.' column of this report.

Group label	Public 4-Year Inst.
Date submitted	5/19/15
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution customized this group by selecting institutional characteristics as follows: Sector (Pub)
Group description	Public 4-year institutions responding to the "Information Literacy" module.

## Public 4-Year Inst. (N=45)

Auburn University (Auburn University, AL)	University of Baltimore (Baltimore, MD)*
Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania (Bloomsburg, PA)	University of California-Merced (Merced, CA)
California State Polytechnic University-Pomona (Pomona, CA)*	University of Central Florida (Orlando, FL)*
California State University, East Bay (Hayward, CA)	University of Hawai'i at Manoa (Honolulu, HI)
California University of Pennsylvania (California, PA)	University of Louisiana at Lafayette (Lafayette, LA)*
Clarion University of Pennsylvania (Clarion, PA)	University of Louisville (Louisville, KY)
East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania (East Stroudsburg, PA)	University of Maine at Machias (Machias, ME)*
Eastern Connecticut State University (Willimantic, CT)	University of Massachusetts Amherst (Amherst, MA)*
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania (Edinboro, PA)	University of Montevallo (Montevallo, AL)*
Fitchburg State University (Fitchburg, MA)	University of New Orleans, The (New Orleans, LA)*
Georgia Gwinnett College (Lawrenceville, GA)	University of North Carolina at Greensboro (Greensboro, NC)
Indiana University Kokomo (Kokomo, IN)	University of Puerto Rico in Ponce (Ponce, PR)*
Indiana University South Bend (South Bend, IN)	William Paterson University of New Jersey (Wayne, NJ)*
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania (Kutztown, PA)	Winona State University (Winona, MN)
Lock Haven University (Lock Haven, PA)	Worcester State University (Worcester, MA)*
Longwood University (Farmville, VA)*	
Mansfield University of Pennsylvania (Mansfield, PA)	
Millersville University of Pennsylvania (Millersville, PA)	
Northwestern Oklahoma State University (Alva, OK)*	
Ohio University (Athens, OH)*	
Oregon Institute of Technology (Klamath Falls, OR)	
San Jose State University (San Jose, CA)*	
Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania (Slippery Rock, PA)	
State University of New York at Potsdam, The (Potsdam, NY)*	
SUNY Empire State College (Saratoga Springs, NY)*	
Texas State University (San Marcos, TX)	
Towson University (Towson, MD)*	
United States Air Force Academy (USAFA, CO)*	
United States Naval Academy (Annapolis, MD)*	
University of Arizona, The (Tucson, AZ)	

## First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				UMass Boston		Public 4-Year Inst.		UMass Boston	Public 4-Year Inst.	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<b>1. During the current school year, about how often have you done the following?</b>										
a. Completed an assignment that used an information source (book, article, website, etc.) other than required course readings	INL01a	1	Never	3	1	302	2	<b>3.3</b>	3.2	.11
		2	Sometimes	38	17	2,990	18			
		3	Often	74	33	6,013	36			
		4	Very often	119	49	7,559	43			
		Total		234	100	16,864	100			
b. Worked on a paper or project that had multiple smaller assignments such as an outline, annotated bibliography, rough draft, etc.	INL01b	1	Never	5	2	778	5	<b>3.2</b>	3.0 ***	.23
		2	Sometimes	45	21	4,118	25			
		3	Often	81	34	6,375	38			
		4	Very often	102	43	5,576	32			
		Total		233	100	16,847	100			
c. Received feedback from an instructor that improved your use of information resources (source selection, proper citation, etc.)	INL01c	1	Never	7	3	905	6	<b>3.2</b>	2.9 ***	.35
		2	Sometimes	44	18	4,538	27			
		3	Often	82	34	6,528	39			
		4	Very often	100	45	4,844	28			
		Total		233	100	16,815	100			
d. Completed an assignment that used the library's electronic collection of articles, books, and journals (JSTOR, EBSCO, LexisNexis, ProQuest, etc.)	INL01d	1	Never	22	11	3,255	21	<b>2.7</b>	2.4 ***	.26
		2	Sometimes	88	37	5,576	34			
		3	Often	57	21	4,550	27			
		4	Very often	67	31	3,433	19			
		Total		234	100	16,814	100			
e. Decided not to use an information source in a course assignment due to its questionable quality	INL01e	1	Never	69	27	3,949	24	<b>2.1</b>	2.3 *	-.13
		2	Sometimes	92	42	6,366	38			
		3	Often	46	20	4,240	25			
		4	Very often	25	10	2,261	13			
		Total		232	100	16,816	100			
f. Changed the focus of a paper or project based on information you found while researching the topic	INL01f	1	Never	26	11	2,618	16	<b>2.5</b>	2.4	.09
		2	Sometimes	111	47	6,883	41			
		3	Often	59	26	4,819	28			
		4	Very often	36	17	2,479	14			
		Total		232	100	16,799	100			
g. Looked for a reference that was cited in something you read	INL01g	1	Never	38	15	2,754	16	<b>2.6</b>	2.5	.11
		2	Sometimes	80	33	6,063	36			
		3	Often	68	31	5,060	30			
		4	Very often	47	21	2,913	17			
		Total		233	100	16,790	100			
h. Identified how a book, article, or creative work has contributed to a field of study	INL01h	1	Never	40	16	3,276	20	<b>2.6</b>	2.4 **	.18
		2	Sometimes	77	32	6,122	36			
		3	Often	69	31	4,664	28			
		4	Very often	46	21	2,688	16			
		Total		232	100	16,750	100			

\*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the Endnotes page for a key to the triangle symbols.

## First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				UMass Boston		Public 4-Year Inst.		UMass Boston	Public 4-Year Inst.	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<b>2. During the current school year, how much have your instructors emphasized the following?</b>										
a. Not plagiarizing another author's work	INL02a	1	Very little	8	3	255	2	<b>3.5</b>	3.6	-.11
		2	Some	17	9	1,045	7			
		3	Quite a bit	47	20	3,215	20			
		4	Very much	163	69	12,334	71			
			Total	235	100	16,849	100			
b. Appropriately citing the sources used in a paper or project	INL02b	1	Very little	5	2	320	2	<b>3.5</b>	3.5	.03
		2	Some	14	8	1,472	10			
		3	Quite a bit	65	29	4,317	27			
		4	Very much	151	61	10,702	61			
			Total	235	100	16,811	100			
c. Using scholarly or peer-reviewed sources in your course assignments	INL02c	1	Very little	7	3	704	5	<b>3.3</b>	3.2	.08
		2	Some	38	18	2,526	16			
		3	Quite a bit	60	25	4,876	30			
		4	Very much	130	54	8,670	49			
			Total	235	100	16,776	100			
d. Questioning the quality of information sources	INL02d	1	Very little	7	3	939	6	<b>3.1</b>	3.1	-.03
		2	Some	58	27	3,152	20			
		3	Quite a bit	65	28	5,039	31			
		4	Very much	104	42	7,598	43			
			Total	234	100	16,728	100			
e. Using practices (terminology, methods, writing style, etc.) of a specific major or field of study	INL02e	1	Very little	18	7	1,324	8	<b>3.1</b>	3.0	.10
		2	Some	48	21	3,661	22			
		3	Quite a bit	65	27	4,804	29			
		4	Very much	102	45	6,857	40			
			Total	233	100	16,646	100			
<b>3. How much has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in using information effectively?</b>										
	INL03	1	Very little	9	4	462	3	<b>3.0</b>	3.1	-.03
		2	Some	56	23	3,095	19			
		3	Quite a bit	92	39	7,725	46			
		4	Very much	79	34	5,454	31			
			Total	236	100	16,736	100			

## Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				UMass Boston		Public 4-Year Inst.		UMass Boston	Public 4-Year Inst.	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<b>1. During the current school year, about how often have you done the following?</b>										
a. Completed an assignment that used an information source (book, article, website, etc.) other than required course readings	INL01a	1	Never	3	1	485	2	<b>3.4</b>	3.4	.10
		2	Sometimes	34	11	3,362	14			
		3	Often	91	30	6,957	29			
		4	Very often	184	58	13,584	55			
		Total		312	100	24,388	100			
b. Worked on a paper or project that had multiple smaller assignments such as an outline, annotated bibliography, rough draft, etc.	INL01b	1	Never	20	7	1,842	8	<b>3.0</b>	2.9	.05
		2	Sometimes	79	26	6,050	25			
		3	Often	86	28	7,717	32			
		4	Very often	126	39	8,744	35			
		Total		311	100	24,353	100			
c. Received feedback from an instructor that improved your use of information resources (source selection, proper citation, etc.)	INL01c	1	Never	24	8	2,017	9	<b>3.0</b>	2.8 *	.13
		2	Sometimes	74	25	6,804	28			
		3	Often	98	31	8,263	34			
		4	Very often	117	36	7,218	29			
		Total		313	100	24,302	100			
d. Completed an assignment that used the library's electronic collection of articles, books, and journals (JSTOR, EBSCO, LexisNexis, ProQuest, etc.)	INL01d	1	Never	28	11	3,271	14	<b>3.0</b>	2.8 ***	.19
		2	Sometimes	68	23	6,237	26			
		3	Often	76	24	6,306	26			
		4	Very often	136	43	8,495	34			
		Total		308	100	24,309	100			
e. Decided not to use an information source in a course assignment due to its questionable quality	INL01e	1	Never	97	32	6,160	26	<b>2.2</b>	2.3	-.08
		2	Sometimes	105	33	9,034	37			
		3	Often	58	19	5,366	22			
		4	Very often	48	15	3,762	15			
		Total		308	100	24,322	100			
f. Changed the focus of a paper or project based on information you found while researching the topic	INL01f	1	Never	44	15	4,229	18	<b>2.5</b>	2.4	.09
		2	Sometimes	133	42	10,260	42			
		3	Often	74	24	6,112	25			
		4	Very often	59	18	3,693	15			
		Total		310	100	24,294	100			
g. Looked for a reference that was cited in something you read	INL01g	1	Never	35	11	3,273	14	<b>2.8</b>	2.6 **	.18
		2	Sometimes	92	29	8,382	35			
		3	Often	91	30	7,244	30			
		4	Very often	93	29	5,405	22			
		Total		311	100	24,304	100			
h. Identified how a book, article, or creative work has contributed to a field of study	INL01h	1	Never	37	12	4,274	18	<b>2.7</b>	2.5 ***	.21
		2	Sometimes	91	30	8,408	35			
		3	Often	101	32	6,630	27			
		4	Very often	78	25	4,936	20			
		Total		307	100	24,248	100			

\*p<.05, \*\*p<.01, \*\*\*p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the Endnotes page for a key to the triangle symbols.

## Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				UMass Boston		Public 4-Year Inst.		UMass Boston	Public 4-Year Inst.	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
<b>2. During the current school year, how much have your instructors emphasized the following?</b>										
a. Not plagiarizing another author's work	INL02a	1	Very little	5	2	754	3	<b>3.6</b>	3.5 **	.14 △
		2	Some	24	8	1,987	8			
		3	Quite a bit	48	16	4,780	20			
		4	Very much	232	75	16,868	68			
			Total	309	100	24,389	100			
b. Appropriately citing the sources used in a paper or project	INL02b	1	Very little	7	2	902	4	<b>3.6</b>	3.4 ***	.18 △
		2	Some	26	9	2,538	11			
		3	Quite a bit	62	19	5,741	24			
		4	Very much	215	69	15,120	60			
			Total	310	100	24,301	100			
c. Using scholarly or peer-reviewed sources in your course assignments	INL02c	1	Very little	17	6	1,505	7	<b>3.4</b>	3.3 *	.15 △
		2	Some	29	10	3,166	14			
		3	Quite a bit	64	20	5,797	25			
		4	Very much	199	64	13,785	55			
			Total	309	100	24,253	100			
d. Questioning the quality of information sources	INL02d	1	Very little	29	9	2,219	10	<b>3.1</b>	3.0	.10
		2	Some	54	18	4,947	21			
		3	Quite a bit	74	24	6,574	27			
		4	Very much	149	48	10,469	42			
			Total	306	100	24,209	100			
e. Using practices (terminology, methods, writing style, etc.) of a specific major or field of study	INL02e	1	Very little	17	5	1,367	6	<b>3.3</b>	3.2	.11
		2	Some	53	17	4,103	18			
		3	Quite a bit	63	20	6,655	28			
		4	Very much	176	57	11,972	48			
			Total	309	100	24,097	100			
<b>3. How much has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in using information effectively?</b>										
	INL03	1	Very little	9	4	493	2	<b>3.2</b>	3.3	-.10
		2	Some	53	17	3,131	13			
		3	Quite a bit	110	35	9,486	39			
		4	Very much	138	44	11,205	45			
			Total	310	100	24,315	100			

#### First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error <sup>f</sup>		Standard deviation <sup>g</sup>		DF <sup>h</sup>	Sig. <sup>i</sup>	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
	UMass Boston	UMass Boston	Public 4-Year Inst.	UMass Boston	Public 4-Year Inst.	UMass Boston	Public 4-Year Inst.			
								<i>Comparisons with: Public 4-Year Inst.</i>		
INL01a	226	3.30	3.21	.05	.01	0.78	0.81	10,905	.108	.11
INL01b	222	3.18	2.98	.06	.01	0.83	0.88	10,890	.001	.23
INL01c	222	3.21	2.90	.06	.01	0.84	0.88	10,872	.000	.35
INL01d	226	2.72	2.45	.07	.01	1.02	1.02	10,872	.000	.26
INL01e	222	2.13	2.26	.06	.01	0.93	0.97	231	.041	-.13
INL01f	221	2.49	2.40	.06	.01	0.89	0.93	10,855	.180	.09
INL01g	222	2.59	2.48	.07	.01	0.98	0.96	10,845	.094	.11
INL01h	221	2.56	2.39	.07	.01	0.99	0.98	10,822	.009	.18
INL02a	227	3.54	3.61	.05	.01	0.79	0.70	233	.159	-.11
INL02b	226	3.49	3.47	.05	.01	0.74	0.76	10,868	.702	.03
INL02c	227	3.31	3.24	.06	.01	0.86	0.88	10,853	.256	.08
INL02d	223	3.09	3.12	.06	.01	0.90	0.93	10,825	.707	-.03
INL02e	222	3.10	3.01	.06	.01	0.96	0.98	10,758	.150	.10
INL03	228	3.03	3.06	.06	.01	0.86	0.79	235	.653	-.03



## Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error <sup>f</sup>		Standard deviation <sup>g</sup>		DF <sup>h</sup>	Sig. <sup>i</sup>	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
	UMass Boston	UMass Boston	Public 4-Year Inst.	UMass Boston	Public 4-Year Inst.	UMass Boston	Public 4-Year Inst.	Comparisons with: Public 4-Year Inst.		
INL01a	310	3.44	3.36	.04	.01	0.74	0.80	323	.052	.10
INL01b	309	2.99	2.94	.06	.01	0.97	0.95	15,928	.359	.05
INL01c	311	2.95	2.83	.06	.01	0.97	0.94	15,906	.022	.13
INL01d	306	2.99	2.78	.06	.01	1.04	1.06	15,900	.001	.19
INL01e	306	2.18	2.26	.06	.01	1.05	1.00	15,911	.143	-.08
INL01f	308	2.45	2.36	.05	.01	0.96	0.94	15,892	.101	.09
INL01g	309	2.77	2.60	.06	.01	0.99	0.97	15,894	.002	.18
INL01h	305	2.70	2.49	.06	.01	0.98	1.00	15,855	.000	.21
INL02a	307	3.64	3.53	.04	.01	0.70	0.78	321	.009	.14
INL02b	308	3.56	3.41	.04	.01	0.75	0.84	323	.001	.18
INL02c	307	3.41	3.28	.05	.01	0.91	0.94	15,865	.011	.15
INL02d	304	3.11	3.01	.06	.01	1.02	1.01	15,836	.090	.10
INL02e	307	3.29	3.19	.05	.01	0.94	0.93	15,765	.063	.11
INL03	308	3.20	3.28	.05	.01	0.85	0.77	317	.109	-.10

## Endnotes

- a. Column percentages are weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. Counts are unweighted; column percentages cannot be replicated from counts.
- b. All statistics are weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Unless otherwise noted, statistical comparisons are two-tailed independent  $t$ -tests. Items with categorical response sets are left blank.
- c. These are the values used to calculate means. For the majority of items, these values match the codes in the data file and codebook.
- d. Effect size for independent  $t$ -tests uses Cohen's  $d$ .
- e. Statistics are weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Categorical items are not listed.
- f. The 95% confidence interval for the population mean is equal to the sample mean plus or minus 1.96 times the standard error of the mean.
- g. A measure of the amount individual scores deviate from the mean of all the scores in the distribution.
- h. Degrees of freedom used to compute the  $t$ -tests. Values differ from  $N$ s due to weighting and whether equal variances were assumed.
- i. Statistical comparisons are two-tailed independent  $t$ -tests. Statistical significance represents the probability that the difference between your students' mean and that of the comparison group is due to chance.

### **Key to symbols:**

- ▲ **Your students' average** was significantly higher ( $p < .05$ ) with an effect size at least .3 in magnitude.
- △ **Your students' average** was significantly higher ( $p < .05$ ) with an effect size less than .3 in magnitude.
- ▽ **Your students' average** was significantly lower ( $p < .05$ ) with an effect size less than .3 in magnitude.
- ▼ **Your students' average** was significantly lower ( $p < .05$ ) with an effect size at least .3 in magnitude.

Note: It is important to interpret the direction of differences relative to item wording and your institutional context.