
NSSE 2024 Topical Module Report

Experiences with Information Literacy

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Updated for NSSE 2024, this module was developed in collaboration with college and university librarians from the Association of College & Research Libraries. Items focus on students' use of information sources, research-based inquiry, and experiences traditionally associated with research libraries. It complements questions on the core survey about reflective & integrative learning, higher-order learning, and assigned reading and writing.

Comparison group details are in the online Selected Comparison Groups report, linked in the Data & Reports table on the Institution Interface. A PDF copy is also saved in your report download folder.

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First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UNC Charlotte		Information Literacy		UNC Charlotte	Information Literacy	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
1. During the current school year, about how often have you done the following?										
a. Completed an assignment using an information source (book, article, website, etc.) other than required course readings	INLsource	1	Never	15	2	27	3	3.0	3.0	.00
		2	Sometimes	166	27	276	26			
		3	Often	239	37	422	38			
		4	Very often	227	34	416	34			
			Total	647	100	1,141	100			
b. Completed an assignment using a library's physical or digital collection of articles, books, or journals (JSTOR, EBSCO, LexisNexis, ProQuest, InterLibrary Loan, etc.)	INLcollection	1	Never	172	27	262	22	2.2	2.4 **	-0.16 ▽
		2	Sometimes	229	36	396	35			
		3	Often	159	24	284	24			
		4	Very often	88	13	203	18			
			Total	648	100	1,145	100			
c. Received help from the library (met with a librarian, used the library's chat service, etc.)	INLhelp	1	Never	357	56	591	53	1.7	1.7	-0.06
		2	Sometimes	176	26	347	31			
		3	Often	82	13	127	10			
		4	Very often	33	5	80	7			
			Total	648	100	1,145	100			
d. Changed the focus of a paper or project based on information you found while researching the topic	INLfocus	1	Never	129	21	208	18	2.2	2.3	-0.03
		2	Sometimes	279	43	513	48			
		3	Often	181	28	303	25			
		4	Very often	57	8	119	9			
			Total	646	100	1,143	100			
e. Looked for an information source that was cited in something you read	INLcited	1	Never	77	12	156	14	2.5	2.5	-0.01
		2	Sometimes	253	39	390	36			
		3	Often	213	33	394	34			
		4	Very often	104	16	202	16			
			Total	647	100	1,142	100			
f. Evaluated an information source by conducting additional research	INLvaladd	1	Never	58	9	114	10	2.6	2.6	-0.01
		2	Sometimes	255	39	415	37			
		3	Often	234	37	420	38			
		4	Very often	96	15	190	15			
			Total	643	100	1,139	100			
g. Identified information that was biased, misleading, or deceptive	INLbiased	1	Never	90	15	149	14	2.5	2.5	.01
		2	Sometimes	244	38	471	40			
		3	Often	218	33	360	33			
		4	Very often	92	14	163	13			
			Total	644	100	1,143	100			
h. Decided not to use an information source in a course assignment due to its questionable quality	INLquesqual	1	Never	88	15	157	16	2.4	2.4	.03
		2	Sometimes	268	41	471	40			
		3	Often	197	30	350	31			
		4	Very often	94	14	162	13			
			Total	647	100	1,140	100			
i. Referred to an information source you found on social media for an assignment	INLsocmed	1	Never	346	55	563	50	1.7	1.8	-0.07
		2	Sometimes	164	25	312	27			
		3	Often	93	14	186	16			
		4	Very often	40	6	80	6			
			Total	643	100	1,141	100			

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

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UNC Charlotte		Information Literacy		UNC Charlotte	Information Literacy	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
j. Consulted with an expert as an information source (on campus, in community)	INLexpert	1	Never	350	55	531	48	1.7	1.8	-.06
		2	Sometimes	158	24	355	32			
		3	Often	99	16	172	14			
		4	Very often	37	6	78	6			
		Total		644	100	1,136	100			
k. Coached or mentored a classmate or peer with research for their course assignment	INLcoach	1	Never	356	55	569	54	1.7	1.7	.04
		2	Sometimes	154	23	334	27			
		3	Often	97	16	179	15			
		4	Very often	39	6	61	4			
		Total		646	100	1,143	100			
2. Which of the following have you done while in college or do you plan to do before you graduate?¹										
a. Attend a campus-sponsored session about conducting research (instructional session with a librarian, writing center for help with a research paper, a library or department workshop, etc.)	INLsession <i>(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")</i>		Have not decided	239	38	367	33	15%	17%	-.06
			Do not plan to do	125	20	219	19			
			Plan to do	153	23	306	25			
			Done or in progress	103	15	194	17			
			To my knowledge is not available	26	4	55	5			
		Total		646	100	1,141	100			
b. Present, publish, or publicly share the results of your research, scholarly activity, or creative work to an audience beyond your classmates (on- or off-campus academic conference, exhibition, research journal, literary magazine, professional blog, etc.)	INLshare <i>(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")</i>		Have not decided	243	38	396	36	4%	5%	-.03
			Do not plan to do	209	32	302	28			
			Plan to do	137	21	325	26			
			Done or in progress	28	4	66	5			
			To my knowledge is not available	26	4	50	5			
		Total		643	100	1,139	100			
c. Use library resources for a non-academic task (leisure reading, researching jobs, watching films, etc.)	INLnonacad <i>(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")</i>		Have not decided	182	29	312	29	17%	18%	-.02
			Do not plan to do	132	21	220	20			
			Plan to do	201	30	356	31			
			Done or in progress	114	17	226	18			
			To my knowledge is not available	15	2	26	2			
		Total		644	100	1,140	100			

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

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UNC Charlotte		Information Literacy		UNC Charlotte	Information Literacy	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
3. How much has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?										
a. Understanding the research and writing styles or practices of your major or field of study	INLdevstyle	0	Not at all	19	3	23	2	2.5	2.6	-.09
		1	Very little	78	12	108	10			
		2	Some	204	32	343	31			
		3	Quite a bit	237	37	471	42			
		4	Very much	106	16	194	15			
		Total		644	100	1,139	100			
a. Developing information and research management strategies (note-taking, using citation software, document organization, etc.)	INLdevstrat	0	Not at all	26	4	31	3	2.5	2.6	-.07
		1	Very little	77	12	114	11			
		2	Some	197	32	332	31			
		3	Quite a bit	221	34	441	37			
		4	Very much	122	18	219	18			
		Total		643	100	1,137	100			
a. Developing your own research skills to identify correct information for personal reasons (not related to your courses)	INLdevpers	0	Not at all	34	5	57	5	2.4	2.4	-.02
		1	Very little	94	15	151	13			
		2	Some	201	31	362	33			
		3	Quite a bit	230	36	387	33			
		4	Very much	84	13	183	15			
		Total		643	100	1,140	100			
a. Keeping an open mind when encountering opposing perspectives during your research	INLdevopen	0	Not at all	11	2	24	2	2.7	2.8 *	-0.11
		1	Very little	51	8	58	5			
		2	Some	172	28	282	27			
		3	Quite a bit	248	38	454	38			
		4	Very much	158	23	325	28			
		Total		640	100	1,143	100			

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

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UNC Charlotte		Information Literacy		UNC Charlotte	Information Literacy	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
1. During the current school year, about how often have you done the following?										
a. Completed an assignment using an information source (book, article, website, etc.) other than required course readings	INLsource	1	Never	7	2	33	3	3.1	3.2	-.03
		2	Sometimes	90	21	248	22			
		3	Often	158	39	429	33			
		4	Very often	165	38	541	42			
			Total	420	100	1,251	100			
b. Completed an assignment using a library's physical or digital collection of articles, books, or journals (JSTOR, EBSCO, LexisNexis, ProQuest, InterLibrary Loan, etc.)	INLcollection	1	Never	83	22	308	22	2.4	2.5	-.08
		2	Sometimes	140	35	349	30			
		3	Often	106	24	319	25			
		4	Very often	88	19	278	23			
			Total	417	100	1,254	100			
c. Received help from the library (met with a librarian, used the library's chat service, etc.)	INLhelp	1	Never	231	56	748	56	1.6	1.7	-.06
		2	Sometimes	132	31	282	26			
		3	Often	32	7	137	11			
		4	Very often	24	6	83	7			
			Total	419	100	1,250	100			
d. Changed the focus of a paper or project based on information you found while researching the topic	INLfocus	1	Never	90	23	258	19	2.3	2.3	-.02
		2	Sometimes	164	40	559	44			
		3	Often	116	27	308	27			
		4	Very often	46	11	124	10			
			Total	416	100	1,249	100			
e. Looked for an information source that was cited in something you read	INLcited	1	Never	55	14	157	13	2.6	2.7	-.10
		2	Sometimes	135	34	406	32			
		3	Often	155	36	422	33			
		4	Very often	73	17	264	22			
			Total	418	100	1,249	100			
f. Evaluated an information source by conducting additional research	INLvaladd	1	Never	44	10	141	11	2.6	2.7	-.11
		2	Sometimes	137	34	389	30			
		3	Often	170	40	455	37			
		4	Very often	64	15	264	22			
			Total	415	100	1,249	100			
g. Identified information that was biased, misleading, or deceptive	INLbiased	1	Never	58	14	183	13	2.4	2.5	-.11
		2	Sometimes	189	45	494	41			
		3	Often	118	28	371	30			
		4	Very often	50	13	198	16			
			Total	415	100	1,246	100			
h. Decided not to use an information source in a course assignment due to its questionable quality	INLquesqual	1	Never	69	16	168	15	2.4	2.4	-.04
		2	Sometimes	181	44	533	45			
		3	Often	110	26	339	25			
		4	Very often	57	14	206	16			
			Total	417	100	1,246	100			
i. Referred to an information source you found on social media for an assignment	INLsocmed	1	Never	231	57	664	55	1.6	1.7	-.06
		2	Sometimes	114	28	321	27			
		3	Often	44	9	170	12			
		4	Very often	25	6	90	7			
			Total	414	100	1,245	100			

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

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UNC Charlotte		Information Literacy		UNC Charlotte	Information Literacy	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
j. Consulted with an expert as an information source (on campus, in community)	INLexpert	1 2 3 4 Total	Never Sometimes Often Very often	199 133 57 26 415	48 32 14 7 100	532 416 199 101 1,248	46 33 15 7 100	1.8	1.8	-.04
k. Coached or mentored a classmate or peer with research for their course assignment	INLcoach	1 2 3 4 Total	Never Sometimes Often Very often	202 134 57 24 417	49 32 13 6 100	582 366 202 98 1,248	52 28 14 7 100	1.8	1.8	.01
2. Which of the following have you done while in college or do you plan to do before you graduate?¹										
a. Attend a campus-sponsored session about conducting research (instructional session with a librarian, writing center for help with a research paper, a library or department workshop, etc.)	INLsession <i>(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")</i>		Have not decided Do not plan to do Plan to do Done or in progress To my knowledge is not available Total	74 185 42 85 30 416	17 45 10 19 8 100	239 505 119 285 100 1,248	19 41 9 22 9 100	19%	22%	-.08
b. Present, publish, or publicly share the results of your research, scholarly activity, or creative work to an audience beyond your classmates (on- or off-campus academic conference, exhibition, research journal, literary magazine, professional blog, etc.)	INLshare <i>(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")</i>		Have not decided Do not plan to do Plan to do Done or in progress To my knowledge is not available Total	69 204 52 61 30 416	17 49 12 14 7 100	217 529 184 252 64 1,246	17 43 13 19 6 100	14%	19% ▽	-.14
c. Use library resources for a non-academic task (leisure reading, researching jobs, watching films, etc.)	INLnonacad <i>(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")</i>		Have not decided Do not plan to do Plan to do Done or in progress To my knowledge is not available Total	74 170 49 111 12 416	17 42 12 26 3 100	226 523 152 299 47 1,247	17 40 12 27 4 100	26%	27%	-.01

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				UNC Charlotte		Information Literacy		UNC Charlotte	Information Literacy	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
3. How much has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?										
a. Understanding the research and writing styles or practices of your major or field of study	INLdevstyle	0	Not at all	7	2	21	3	2.8	2.9	-.08
		1	Very little	28	7	69	6			
		2	Some	99	25	261	22			
		3	Quite a bit	168	40	521	40			
		4	Very much	115	26	376	30			
			Total	417	100	1,248	100			
a. Developing information and research management strategies (note-taking, using citation software, document organization, etc.)	INLdevstrat	0	Not at all	10	3	26	3	2.7	2.8	-.05
		1	Very little	37	10	93	8			
		2	Some	105	25	306	25			
		3	Quite a bit	159	38	481	38			
		4	Very much	103	24	339	26			
			Total	414	100	1,245	100			
a. Developing your own research skills to identify correct information for personal reasons (not related to your courses)	INLdevpers	0	Not at all	15	4	55	5	2.6	2.6	-.04
		1	Very little	47	11	120	10			
		2	Some	120	31	346	29			
		3	Quite a bit	148	34	416	32			
		4	Very much	86	20	307	24			
			Total	416	100	1,244	100			
a. Keeping an open mind when encountering opposing perspectives during your research	INLdevopen	0	Not at all	6	2	30	3	3.0	2.9 *	.11 △
		1	Very little	23	5	61	5			
		2	Some	84	21	294	25			
		3	Quite a bit	157	38	464	35			
		4	Very much	146	34	398	31			
			Total	416	100	1,247	100			

First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
		UNC Charlotte	Information Literacy	UNC Charlotte	Information Literacy	UNC Charlotte	Information Literacy			
INLsource	649	3.02	3.03	.033	.029	.84	.84	1,454	.939	.00
INLcollection	649	2.22	2.38	.039	.036	.98	1.02	1,408	.002	-.16
INLhelp	649	1.66	1.71	.034	.032	.87	.91	1,458	.250	-.06
INLfocus	647	2.24	2.26	.034	.030	.87	.86	1,453	.607	-.03
INLcited	650	2.53	2.54	.035	.032	.90	.92	1,457	.866	-.01
INLvaladd	643	2.56	2.57	.034	.031	.85	.87	1,449	.779	-.01
INLbiased	645	2.47	2.46	.036	.031	.91	.88	1,451	.805	.01
INLquesqual	649	2.44	2.41	.035	.032	.90	.91	1,454	.515	.03
INLsocmed	645	1.71	1.78	.036	.033	.92	.93	1,452	.172	-.07
INLexpert	646	1.72	1.78	.036	.031	.92	.89	1,451	.229	-.06
INLcoach	648	1.72	1.69	.037	.031	.93	.88	1,454	.487	.04
INLsession ^k	648	15%	17%	.014	.013	--	--	--	.279	-.06
INLshare ^k	645	4%	5%	.008	.007	--	--	--	.588	-.03
INLnonacad ^k	646	17%	18%	.015	.013	--	--	--	.658	-.02
INLdevstyle	645	2.49	2.58	.040	.033	1.00	.94	1,338	.077	-.09
INLdevstrat	645	2.49	2.56	.041	.035	1.05	1.01	1,449	.213	-.07
INLdevpers	644	2.36	2.39	.041	.037	1.05	1.06	1,448	.637	-.02
INLdevopen	641	2.73	2.84	.038	.034	.97	.97	1,447	.038	-.11

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

Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error ^f		Standard deviation ^g		DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
		UNC Charlotte	Information Literacy	UNC Charlotte	Information Literacy	UNC Charlotte	Information Literacy			
	Comparisons with: Information Literacy									
INLsource	415	3.13	3.16	.039	.026	.80	.85	795	.608	-.03
INLcollection	411	2.40	2.48	.051	.033	1.04	1.08	1,477	.193	-.08
INLhelp	413	1.62	1.68	.042	.028	.85	.91	806	.247	-.06
INLfocus	409	2.26	2.28	.046	.027	.93	.88	1,469	.706	-.02
INLcited	412	2.56	2.65	.046	.029	.93	.96	1,475	.090	-.10
INLvaladd	409	2.59	2.69	.043	.029	.87	.94	797	.057	-.11
INLbiased	409	2.39	2.50	.044	.028	.88	.91	1,466	.054	-.11
INLquesqual	411	2.38	2.42	.046	.028	.92	.92	1,468	.499	-.04
INLsocmed	408	1.65	1.70	.044	.028	.89	.92	1,463	.300	-.06
INLexpert	409	1.80	1.83	.046	.028	.92	.93	1,469	.537	-.04
INLcoach	411	1.76	1.76	.044	.029	.89	.93	1,471	.922	.01
INLsession ^k	410	19%	22%	.019	.013	--	--	--	.148	-.08
INLshare ^k	411	14%	19%	.017	.012	--	--	--	.012	-.14
INLnonacad ^k	410	26%	27%	.022	.014	--	--	--	.815	-.01
INLdevstyle	411	2.81	2.89	.047	.030	.96	.98	1,470	.153	-.08
INLdevstrat	408	2.71	2.76	.051	.031	1.02	1.01	1,463	.368	-.05
INLdevpers	410	2.55	2.60	.052	.034	1.05	1.11	1,462	.474	-.04
INLdevopen	411	2.97	2.85	.048	.032	.97	1.03	789	.045	.11

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. Comparison group details are in the Selected Comparison Groups report, linked in the Data & Reports table on the Institution Interface.
- 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; z-tests use Cohen's h.
- 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 Ns due to weighting and whether equal variances were assumed.
- i. Statistical comparisons are two-tailed independent t-tests or z-tests. Statistical significance represents the probability that the difference between your students' mean and that of the students in the comparison group is due to chance.
- j. Statistical comparison uses z-test to compare the proportion who responded (depending on the item) "Done or in progress" or "Yes" with all who responded otherwise.
- k. Mean represents the proportion who responded (depending on the item) "Done or in progress" or "Yes."

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. You may not see all of these symbols in your report.