TRAILS Categories

IUPUI University Library Information Literacy Program Standards
(PULs & ACRL crosswalk)

CATEGORY #1: Develop topic

Develop focus. Recognize the hierarchical relationships of broader and narrower topics. Identify individuals to help you focus a topic. Identify manageable topics based on the parameters of an assignment.

- Students will be able to identify which sources are most appropriate for an assignment.

(ACRL Standard 1.1, 1.2: PUL – Core Communication & Quantitative Skills, Critical Thinking)

CATEGORY #2: Identify potential sources

Understand the types of containers in which information is housed (ex: different types of libraries, books, databases, online catalogs, primary sources, etc.) and the types of information that can be found within each type of container. Understand the roles and limitations of differing types of information sources (encyclopedias, atlases, dictionaries, etc.) and finding tools (research databases, online catalogs, bibliographic citations, people, etc.). Select the most productive information sources and finding tools to address a given information need.

- Students will be able to identify which sources are most appropriate for an assignment.

(ACRL Standard 1.1, 1.2: PUL – Core Communication & Quantitative Skills, Critical Thinking)

- Students will be able to evaluate a web site based on evaluation criteria.

(ACRL Standard 3.2: PULs – Core Communication & Quantitative Skills, Critical Thinking, Integration & Application of Knowledge)

CATEGORY #3: Develop, use, and revise search strategies

Understand how to use a given type of information container in order to retrieve information (ex: index and table of contents in a book, an online catalog, etc.). Select search terms. Develop a search strategy for the topic appropriate to a given finding tool. Understand how to use Boolean operators. Revise search strategies when too few, too many, or irrelevant results are returned.

- Students will be able to describe and use basic services and resources offered by University Library.

(ACRL Standard 2.3: PUL – Core Communication & Quantitative Skills)
CATEGORY #4: Evaluate sources and information

Recognize bias. Differentiate between fact and opinion. Determine the accuracy, authority, coverage, currency, and relevancy of information and/or information sources.

- Students will be able to differentiate between popular and scholarly information sources and describe the characteristics of scholarly literature.

(ACRL Standard 1.2; PUL – Core Communication & Quantitative Skills, Critical Thinking)

CATEGORY #5: Recognize how to use information responsibly, ethically, and legally

Recognize how to paraphrase correctly. Understand the concept of intellectual property (especially copyright, fair use, and plagiarism). Understand the concept of intellectual freedom. Create bibliographies and parenthetical citations according to an appropriate style manual.

- Students will be familiar with IUPUI’s definition of plagiarism and recognize whether a particular piece of information needs to be cited to avoid plagiarizing.

(ACRL Standards 2.5, 5.2; PULs – Core Communication & Quantitative Skills, Critical Thinking, Values & Ethics)

- Students will be able to identify the elements of a basic citation such as author and title for several types of resources (e.g., a book, a journal article, a web page) in order to avoid plagiarizing.

(ACRL Standards 2.5, 5.2; PULs – Core Communication & Quantitative Skills, Values & Ethics)