While the skill of using computers is universally valued and accepted, the ability to critically find and use information is not.

Computer literacy is an active endeavor. You can’t passively approach it and hope for the best.

Information Literacy is also an active endeavor. Too many people are passive receivers of information. While this attitude may appear to “work”, it is fatal for college students and anyone who desires to be a productive and informed citizen.

Information literate individuals are active seekers of the best information resources available. Because of their skills, they can continue to learn on their own either for personal or professional application.

Information Literate Students can:

- Define their information need
- Find information in all formats
- Evaluate the quality of information
- Use information appropriately to solve specific tasks
- Cite and use information ethically

You no longer have to guess where your students “are” in terms of finding and using quality information. We have developed an online pre and post assessment tool that your students can use to measure where they are and what skills they need to focus on. Your students can individually take this assessment at their convenience during the first part of the semester, prior to any library assignment. Towards the end of the semester they can take it again and compare results.

We believe our assessment can help students and faculty identify weak skill areas where instruction can focus. Secondarily it can quantify how well we are moving students along the path of becoming information literate at the individual, class and college level.

If you are interested in using this assessment tool, or for further information, contact Steve Sickels ssickel@kirkwood.edu and/or Sara Scheib sscheib@kirkwood.edu
16. To determine if an author is qualified to write on a specific topic, which of the following would most likely provide trustworthy information about the author’s qualifications:

   a. a general encyclopedia
   b. biography index or database
   c. author’s Web page hosted by the university where he or she is employed
   d. answers a., b., and c.
   e. answers b. and c.

17. Which of the following strategies would be useful for trying to confirm the accuracy of information on a Web page?

   a. checking the Web page author’s qualifications
   b. researching other sources for the same information
   c. finding out which institution is hosting the Web page
   d. answers a. and c.
   e. answers a. and b. and c.

18. You now own a 1996 Ford Windstar that has given you electrical problems. You need to buy a new car so you look at the magazine Consumer Reports which says Windstars have fewer than average electrical repair problems. Which of the following is the most likely conclusion to make?

   a. You should buy another Windstar.
   b. Consumer Reports is wrong.
   c. You have a different model year from the one described in the report.
   d. A mechanic damaged your electrical system.

19. Which of the following usually requires a password because it does not allow free access for all Web users?

   a. library online catalog
   b. periodical databases, like InfoTrac or EBSCOhost
   c. Yahoo! Web directories
   d. bookstores’ Web sites

20. Copyright protection covers works:

   a. as long as the author or creator is still alive.
   b. only if an explicit copyright notice (©, or Copyright by …) is displayed.
   c. that represent an original idea, in any format (text, music, drawing, video, …).
   d. only if they have been published.