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# **NSSE 2020 Topical Module Report**

## **Experiences with Information Literacy**

North Carolina State University

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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 'Masters / Doc Inst' column of this report.

Group label	Masters / Doc Inst
Date submitted	5/22/20
How was this comparison group constructed?	Your institution customized this group by selecting institutional characteristics as follows:  Basic Classification (All Doc, All Master's); Sector (Pub, Priv nfp); UG Enrollment (> 5K)
Group description	Public or Private institutions with 5,000+ enrollment, and Carnegie classification of Masters/Doctoral, participating in NSSE module in AY19-20 or AY18-19 (n=14).

## Masters / Doc Inst (N=14)

Boston University (Boston, MA)  
 Brigham Young University (Provo, UT)  
 California State University-Stanislaus (Turlock, CA)  
 California State University, Fresno (Fresno, CA)  
 Colorado Mesa University (Grand Junction, CO)\*  
 Elon University (Elon, NC)\*  
 Mercy College (Dobbs Ferry, NY)  
 Ohio University (Athens, OH)  
 Southern Utah University (Cedar City, UT)\*  
 Tennessee Technological University (Cookeville, TN)  
 University of Mississippi (University, MS)  
 University of Montana (Missoula, MT)\*  
 University of Tampa, The (Tampa, FL)  
 Utah Valley University (Orem, UT)

## 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>		
				NC State		Masters / Doc Inst		NC State	Masters / Doc 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	16	4	273	3	<b>2.8</b>	3.0 ***	-0.28 ▽
		2	Sometimes	146	35	1,863	23			
		3	Often	160	37	3,123	39			
		4	Very often	108	24	2,906	34			
		Total		430	100	8,165	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	35	8	438	6	<b>2.6</b>	2.9 ***	-0.38 ▽
		2	Sometimes	172	41	2,181	27			
		3	Often	153	36	3,120	38			
		4	Very often	68	15	2,427	29			
		Total		428	100	8,166	100			
c. Received feedback from an instructor that improved your use of information resources (source selection, proper citation, etc.)	INL01c	1	Never	47	11	521	6	<b>2.5</b>	2.8 ***	-0.35 ▽
		2	Sometimes	161	39	2,364	29			
		3	Often	160	37	3,314	41			
		4	Very often	59	13	1,963	24			
		Total		427	100	8,162	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	95	24	1,584	20	<b>2.3</b>	2.4 **	-0.16 ▽
		2	Sometimes	161	38	2,716	34			
		3	Often	108	25	2,292	28			
		4	Very often	62	13	1,569	18			
		Total		426	100	8,161	100			
e. Decided not to use an information source in a course assignment due to its questionable quality	INL01e	1	Never	139	33	2,273	27	<b>1.9</b>	2.1 ***	-0.22 ▽
		2	Sometimes	194	46	3,314	41			
		3	Often	70	16	1,873	24			
		4	Very often	23	5	696	8			
		Total		426	100	8,156	100			
f. Changed the focus of a paper or project based on information you found while researching the topic	INL01f	1	Never	102	25	1,165	16	<b>2.1</b>	2.4 ***	-0.26 ▽
		2	Sometimes	190	45	3,464	42			
		3	Often	98	23	2,611	31			
		4	Very often	35	8	904	11			
		Total		425	100	8,144	100			
g. Looked for a reference that was cited in something you read	INL01g	1	Never	86	21	1,231	15	<b>2.2</b>	2.5 ***	-0.26 ▽
		2	Sometimes	197	46	3,000	37			
		3	Often	101	24	2,815	34			
		4	Very often	41	9	1,098	14			
		Total		425	100	8,144	100			
h. Identified how a book, article, or creative work has contributed to a field of study	INL01h	1	Never	105	25	1,536	18	<b>2.1</b>	2.4 ***	-0.24 ▽
		2	Sometimes	185	44	3,139	39			
		3	Often	97	22	2,500	31			
		4	Very often	38	9	963	12			
		Total		425	100	8,138	100			
i. Considered the credibility of an information source	INL01i	1	Never	20	5	335	6	<b>2.8</b>	2.9	-0.02
		2	Sometimes	129	32	1,889	29			
		3	Often	174	40	2,759	40			
		4	Very often	101	24	1,685	26			
		Total		424	100	6,668	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 <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				NC State		Masters / Doc Inst		NC State	Masters / Doc Inst	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
j. Verified an information source by comparing it to other sources	INL01j  <i>(Comparison data are limited to NSSE 2020.)</i>	1	Never	59	14	789	12	<b>2.5</b>	2.6 **	-0.14 ▽
		2	Sometimes	166	39	2,297	34			
		3	Often	135	32	2,370	36			
		4	Very often	62	15	1,199	18			
		Total		422	100	6,655	100			
k. Identified information that was biased, misleading, or deceptive	INL01k  <i>(Comparison data are limited to NSSE 2020.)</i>	1	Never	45	11	684	10	<b>2.5</b>	2.6 **	-0.14 ▽
		2	Sometimes	190	46	2,538	38			
		3	Often	135	31	2,323	34			
		4	Very often	53	13	1,116	17			
		Total		423	100	6,661	100			
l. Used information you found on social media in a paper or project	INL01l  <i>(Comparison data are limited to NSSE 2020.)</i>	1	Never	277	66	3,513	51	<b>1.5</b>	1.8 ***	-0.33 ▽
		2	Sometimes	95	22	1,742	27			
		3	Often	41	10	963	15			
		4	Very often	10	2	437	7			
		Total		423	100	6,655	100			
m. Combined information found on social media with other sources	INL01m  <i>(Comparison data are limited to NSSE 2020.)</i>	1	Never	238	57	3,251	47	<b>1.6</b>	1.8 ***	-0.24 ▽
		2	Sometimes	119	28	1,842	28			
		3	Often	49	11	1,128	18			
		4	Very often	16	4	444	7			
		Total		422	100	6,665	100			
<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	7	2	200	3	<b>3.5</b>	3.5	.01
		2	Some	34	9	762	9			
		3	Quite a bit	110	26	2,003	23			
		4	Very much	273	64	5,171	65			
		Total		424	100	8,136	100			
b. Appropriately citing the sources used in a paper or project	INL02b	1	Very little	13	3	176	2	<b>3.4</b>	3.4	-0.03
		2	Some	42	11	905	11			
		3	Quite a bit	125	31	2,406	29			
		4	Very much	244	56	4,646	58			
		Total		424	100	8,133	100			
c. Using scholarly or peer-reviewed sources in your course assignments	INL02c	1	Very little	18	4	315	4	<b>3.3</b>	3.3	-0.03
		2	Some	64	16	1,114	14			
		3	Quite a bit	127	31	2,580	31			
		4	Very much	215	49	4,116	50			
		Total		424	100	8,125	100			
d. Questioning the quality of information sources	INL02d	1	Very little	23	5	420	5	<b>3.1</b>	3.1	-0.04
		2	Some	96	24	1,714	21			
		3	Quite a bit	129	30	2,675	33			
		4	Very much	176	40	3,317	41			
		Total		424	100	8,126	100			
e. Using practices (terminology, methods, writing style, etc.) of a specific major or field of study	INL02e	1	Very little	20	5	595	7	<b>3.0</b>	3.0	.10
		2	Some	101	24	2,006	24			
		3	Quite a bit	135	32	2,681	33			
		4	Very much	169	39	2,830	35			
		Total		425	100	8,112	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 <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				NC State		Masters / Doc Inst		NC State	Masters / Doc Inst	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
<b>3. How much has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?</b>										
a. Using information effectively	INL03a	1	Very little	14	3	155	2	<b>3.0</b>	3.1 **	-0.15
		2	Some	105	26	1,488	19			
		3	Quite a bit	173	41	3,643	44			
		4	Very much	131	30	2,844	34			
		Total		423	100	8,130	100			
b. Recognizing biased, misleading, or deceptive information	INL03b <i>(Comparison data are limited to NSSE 2020.)</i>	1	Very little	40	10	437	7	<b>2.7</b>	2.9 ***	-0.22
		2	Some	144	36	1,798	26			
		3	Quite a bit	142	33	2,557	38			
		4	Very much	96	22	1,856	28			
		Total		422	100	6,648	100			
c. Evaluating the credibility of your information sources	INL03c <i>(Comparison data are limited to NSSE 2020.)</i>	1	Very little	33	8	298	5	<b>2.8</b>	3.0 ***	-0.22
		2	Some	128	32	1,646	24			
		3	Quite a bit	145	34	2,599	38			
		4	Very much	116	26	2,110	32			
		Total		422	100	6,653	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 <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				NC State		Masters / Doc Inst		NC State	Masters / Doc 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	12	3	331	4	<b>3.1</b>	3.2 **	-0.14 ▽
		2	Sometimes	102	26	2,005	20			
		3	Often	131	32	3,192	32			
		4	Very often	157	39	4,620	44			
		Total		402	100	10,148	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	53	14	773	8	<b>2.6</b>	2.9 ***	-0.26 ▽
		2	Sometimes	130	32	2,677	26			
		3	Often	118	30	3,331	33			
		4	Very often	101	24	3,353	33			
		Total		402	100	10,134	100			
c. Received feedback from an instructor that improved your use of information resources (source selection, proper citation, etc.)	INL01c	1	Never	63	16	1,010	10	<b>2.5</b>	2.8 ***	-0.33 ▽
		2	Sometimes	151	38	3,137	30			
		3	Often	117	30	3,406	34			
		4	Very often	68	16	2,568	26			
		Total		399	100	10,121	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	65	17	1,493	17	<b>2.6</b>	2.7 *	-0.12 ▽
		2	Sometimes	125	32	2,657	26			
		3	Often	109	27	2,693	26			
		4	Very often	102	24	3,296	30			
		Total		401	100	10,139	100			
e. Decided not to use an information source in a course assignment due to its questionable quality	INL01e	1	Never	124	31	2,861	28	<b>2.0</b>	2.2 ***	-0.19 ▽
		2	Sometimes	181	46	3,963	39			
		3	Often	69	17	2,202	22			
		4	Very often	24	6	1,094	11			
		Total		398	100	10,120	100			
f. Changed the focus of a paper or project based on information you found while researching the topic	INL01f	1	Never	75	19	1,632	17	<b>2.2</b>	2.4 **	-0.13 ▽
		2	Sometimes	187	47	4,256	42			
		3	Often	100	25	2,885	28			
		4	Very often	37	9	1,343	13			
		Total		399	100	10,116	100			
g. Looked for a reference that was cited in something you read	INL01g	1	Never	58	15	1,247	13	<b>2.4</b>	2.6 ***	-0.18 ▽
		2	Sometimes	163	40	3,505	34			
		3	Often	123	30	3,229	32			
		4	Very often	56	14	2,131	21			
		Total		400	100	10,112	100			
h. Identified how a book, article, or creative work has contributed to a field of study	INL01h	1	Never	101	26	1,760	18	<b>2.2</b>	2.5 ***	-0.29 ▽
		2	Sometimes	161	40	3,608	35			
		3	Often	98	25	3,043	30			
		4	Very often	40	10	1,694	17			
		Total		400	100	10,105	100			
i. Considered the credibility of an information source	INL01i	1	Never	29	7	549	7	<b>2.7</b>	2.9 ***	-0.18 ▽
		2	Sometimes	139	35	2,247	26			
		3	Often	140	35	3,166	36			
		4	Very often	92	23	2,718	31			
		Total		400	100	8,680	100			

## Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				NC State		Masters / Doc Inst		NC State	Masters / Doc Inst	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
j. Verified an information source by comparing it to other sources	INL01j <i>(Comparison data are limited to NSSE 2020.)</i>	1	Never	64	16	996	12	<b>2.4</b>	2.7 ***	-0.24 ▽
		2	Sometimes	136	35	2,773	31			
		3	Often	146	37	2,970	35			
		4	Very often	49	12	1,925	22			
		Total		395	100	8,664	100			
k. Identified information that was biased, misleading, or deceptive	INL01k <i>(Comparison data are limited to NSSE 2020.)</i>	1	Never	63	16	1,056	13	<b>2.3</b>	2.5 ***	-0.21 ▽
		2	Sometimes	171	43	3,354	38			
		3	Often	125	31	2,644	30			
		4	Very often	39	10	1,617	19			
		Total		398	100	8,671	100			
l. Used information you found on social media in a paper or project	INL01l <i>(Comparison data are limited to NSSE 2020.)</i>	1	Never	276	70	5,018	57	<b>1.4</b>	1.7 ***	-0.31 ▽
		2	Sometimes	84	20	2,140	25			
		3	Often	31	8	998	12			
		4	Very often	7	2	520	7			
		Total		398	100	8,676	100			
m. Combined information found on social media with other sources	INL01m <i>(Comparison data are limited to NSSE 2020.)</i>	1	Never	248	63	4,561	51	<b>1.5</b>	1.8 ***	-0.27 ▽
		2	Sometimes	96	24	2,361	27			
		3	Often	44	11	1,168	14			
		4	Very often	10	2	588	7			
		Total		398	100	8,678	100			
<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	22	6	398	4	<b>3.2</b>	3.4 ***	-0.21 ▽
		2	Some	58	15	1,291	11			
		3	Quite a bit	107	28	2,467	23			
		4	Very much	209	51	5,950	62			
		Total		396	100	10,106	100			
b. Appropriately citing the sources used in a paper or project	INL02b	1	Very little	30	8	436	5	<b>3.1</b>	3.4 ***	-0.25 ▽
		2	Some	60	16	1,288	12			
		3	Quite a bit	120	31	2,738	26			
		4	Very much	188	46	5,633	57			
		Total		398	100	10,095	100			
c. Using scholarly or peer-reviewed sources in your course assignments	INL02c	1	Very little	43	11	582	6	<b>3.0</b>	3.3 ***	-0.28 ▽
		2	Some	65	17	1,244	13			
		3	Quite a bit	110	28	2,613	25			
		4	Very much	180	43	5,650	56			
		Total		398	100	10,089	100			
d. Questioning the quality of information sources	INL02d	1	Very little	54	14	856	9	<b>2.7</b>	3.0 ***	-0.32 ▽
		2	Some	123	32	2,236	21			
		3	Quite a bit	106	27	2,944	29			
		4	Very much	114	28	4,041	41			
		Total		397	100	10,077	100			
e. Using practices (terminology, methods, writing style, etc.) of a specific major or field of study	INL02e	1	Very little	31	8	574	6	<b>3.0</b>	3.2 ***	-0.23 ▽
		2	Some	89	24	1,771	17			
		3	Quite a bit	136	34	3,091	31			
		4	Very much	141	34	4,644	46			
		Total		397	100	10,080	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 <sup>c</sup>	Response options	Frequency Distributions <sup>a</sup>				Statistical Comparisons <sup>b</sup>		
				NC State		Masters / Doc Inst		NC State	Masters / Doc Inst	
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size <sup>d</sup>
<b>3. How much has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?</b>										
a. Using information effectively	INL03a	1	Very little	7	2	170	2	<b>3.2</b>	3.3	-.10
		2	Some	61	17	1,298	14			
		3	Quite a bit	163	41	3,866	38			
		4	Very much	166	41	4,744	46			
		Total		397	100	10,078	100			
b. Recognizing biased, misleading, or deceptive information	INL03b <i>(Comparison data are limited to NSSE 2020.)</i>	1	Very little	28	7	469	6	<b>2.8</b>	3.0 ***	-.23 ▽
		2	Some	136	35	2,083	24			
		3	Quite a bit	129	32	3,070	35			
		4	Very much	105	26	3,033	34			
		Total		398	100	8,655	100			
c. Evaluating the credibility of your information sources	INL03c <i>(Comparison data are limited to NSSE 2020.)</i>	1	Very little	24	6	374	5	<b>2.9</b>	3.1 ***	-.24 ▽
		2	Some	119	30	1,750	20			
		3	Quite a bit	139	34	3,130	36			
		4	Very much	116	29	3,397	38			
		Total		398	100	8,651	100			





## 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  $d$ ;  $z$ -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  $N$ s 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.