Information Sources

ATU
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Atlantic Technological University

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Information Literacy

What is Information Literacy?

"Information literacy is knowing **when** and **why** you need information, **where** to find it, and **how** to **evaluate**, **use** and **communicate** it in an ethical manner."

(CILIP, The Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, UK)

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What you will learn

- Information can be found in all kinds of places…books, news media, journals, the web.
- Knowing which one to use will depend on what kind of information you need.
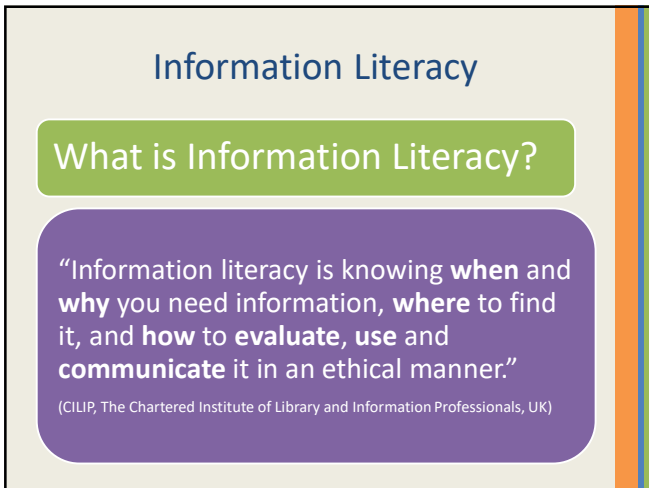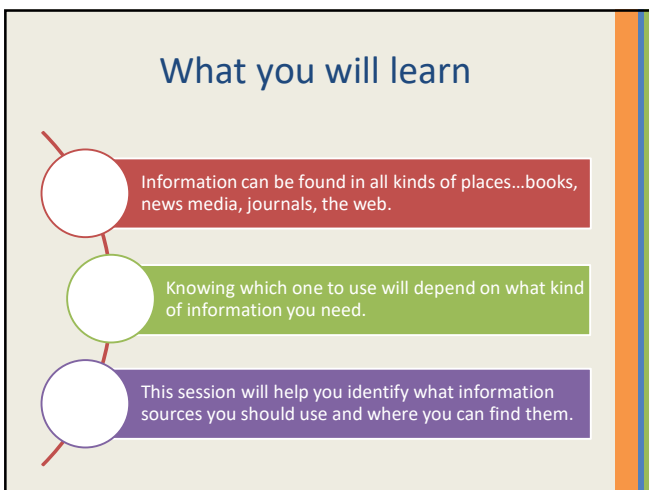- This session will help you identify what information sources you should use and where you can find them.

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Primary Sources

Primary sources are original artefacts or documents. They offer contemporary accounts from participants or people directly involved in an event (first-hand accounts)

- Interviews
- Diaries
- Letters
- Original works of art
- Photographs

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Secondary Sources

Secondary sources describe and interpret primary sources. They are written or produced after the fact.

- News media
- Newspapers
- Journals / magazines
- Books
- Dictionaries, encyclopaedias, atlases
- Theses

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Reference Books

A good start

Definitions

Summaries

Encyclopaedias

Dictionaries

Almanacs

Directories

Atlases

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Books / Ebooks

Good source. Comprehensive.

Thorough treatment of a topic.

Published sometime after research, so may not be current.

Good source? Check publication date. Look for references.

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Journals

A journal is an academic magazine published on a regular basis.
It contains articles written by experts in a particular field of study.

Up-to-date

Latest research

Peer-reviewed, written by experts

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Spot the difference

Scholarly journal	Magazine
For scholars, researchers	For general public
Written by experts	Written by journalists
Long, focused articles	Short, general articles
Peer-reviewed	Not peer-reviewed
Plain, no advertisements	Colourful, advertisements

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Websites

Everything and anything!

But beware… remember to evaluate

The web is great for…

- Company information
- Government info
- Organisations related to your subject
- News

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Library databases

Library databases are online collections of documents on various subjects

- Journal articles
- Newspaper articles
- Standards
- eBooks
- Other documents

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Evaluating sources

Relevance — Does it suit my purpose?

Accuracy — Fact or Opinion? References?

Currency — How up to date is the info?

Evaluating Sources

Purpose — To inform? To persuade? To sell?

Author — An expert? Is bias evident?

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Finding information

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Where do I find things?

Books	• Library website
eBooks	• Library website • Google books / Google Scholar
Journal articles	• Library website • Google Scholar
Websites	• Internet
Databases	• Library website

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How to find things

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Search the library website

Use the library website to search for what you want

- When you find a book on the website you'll see its **shelf number**, this will help you find it in the library.

- For online items, like eBooks, simply click on the link to read them online or download

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Need more help?

Use LibGuides

Online guides, tailored to your course, to help you find the best sources for books, eBooks, journal articles, databases and websites.

Get in Touch

Face-to-face, call, email, Live Chat.

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Find a book on the shelves

- Books in ATU Library are grouped together by subject.

- We use a number system, called Dewey Decimal Classification, to arrange books by subject.

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Shelf numbers by subject

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Why so many numbers?

A GMIT shelf number always has three digits.

It may have a decimal point followed by more digits *e.g.* 746.44

The longer a shelf number is the more specific the subject matter is. *For example:*

746	Textiles
746.4	Needlework and handwork
746.44	Embroidery

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Shelf signs

629
↓
634.91

eng	bus

629.2	motor vehicles
629.8	control systems
630	agriculture
634.9	forestry

- The start and end number of each shelf

- Colour coding
  e.g. Blue for Business

- Remember books are shelved in numeric order!

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Need More Help…

… Just Ask: Staff are here to help!

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