Implementing the Information Literacy Framework: A Practical Guide for Librarians


Subject: How to be a better teacher.

Useful for: Useful for academic librarians and faculty members interested in incorporating the Framework of Information Literacy for Higher Education into the university curriculum.

Format: Chapters with index; tables and figures; sample class assignments and handouts.

Reviewer’s Comments:
This book is a guide for implementing the Framework of Information Literacy for Higher Education, which was adopted by the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) in 2015. The Framework lays out a conceptual understanding of information literacy organized around the following six “frames”:

- Authority is Constructed and Contextual
- Information Creation as a Process
- Information Has Value
- Research as Inquiry
- Scholarship as Conversation
- Searching as Strategic Exploration

Some of these concepts may sound vague at first, but the book does a good job of explaining them and showing how they can be incorporated into subject-specific lesson plans. It also includes a detailed history of the concept of information literacy, beginning in the 1970s with the dawn of the information age and covering a number of the Framework’s predecessors, such as the ACRL’s Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education (2000) and the American Association of School Librarians’ Standards for the 21st-Century Learner (2007). As the authors observe, information literacy has come to be seen in recent years as “a core competency that faculty now are expected to embed in their course curriculum and to assess” (p. 3).

The book provides a number of detailed strategies for working with classroom instructors to incorporate the Framework into the curriculum. There are also several sample assignments, one for each of the six frames. The assignments include student learning outcomes, handouts, and rubrics for evaluation. The assignments use specific course subjects such as composition, math, nursing, and literature to impart the principles of the Framework.

There are illustrations and tables throughout the book that help to elucidate the Framework concepts, and each chapter ends with a list of bullet points summarizing its key points, as well as a list of references and suggestions for further reading.

Reviewed by: Robert N. Clark, University of Houston Law Center, in 2018.