
NSSE 2020 Topical Module Report
Experiences with Information Literacy
Tennessee Technological University

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About This Topical Module

Comparison Group

Group description

All other current- and prior-year (if applicable) NSSE institutions who administered module "Experiences with

Information Literacy (N=40)

Assumption College (Worcester, MA)*

Baker University (Baldwin City, KS)*

Boston University (Boston, MA)

Brigham Young University (Provo, UT)

California State University-Stanislaus (Turlock, CA)

California State University, Fresno (Fresno, CA)

Cedarville University (Cedarville, OH)

Chaminade University of Honolulu (Honolulu, HI)

Christopher Newport University (Newport News, VA)

Colorado Mesa University (Grand Junction, CO)*

Doane University (Crete, NE)

Dominican College of Blauvelt (Orangeburg, NY)

Elon University (Elon, NC)*

Florida Institute of Technology (Melbourne, FL)

Grant MacEwan University (Edmonton, AB)

Illinois Wesleyan University (Bloomington, IL)*

Inter American University of Puerto Rico-Ponce Campus (Mercedita, PR)*

Juniata College (Huntingdon, PA)

Lincoln College (Lincoln, IL)

Mercy College (Dobbs Ferry, NY)

Milligan University (Milligan College, TN)*

Mount Saint Mary College (Newburgh, NY)

North Carolina State University (Raleigh, NC)

Northwestern Oklahoma State University (Alva, OK)

Ohio University (Athens, OH)

Pacific Lutheran University (Tacoma, WA)

Paul Smith's College (Paul Smiths, NY)

Queens University of Charlotte (Charlotte, NC)

Samford University (Birmingham, AL)

Simon Fraser University (Burnaby, BC)

Southern Utah University (Cedar City, UT)*

Springfield College (Springfield, MA)*

University of Maryland-Eastern Shore (Princess Anne, MD)

University of Mississippi (University, MS)

University of Montana (Missoula, MT)*

University of Montevallo (Montevallo, AL)

University of Tampa, The (Tampa, FL)

Utah Valley University (Orem, UT)

Washington & Jefferson College (Washington, PA)*

William Woods University (Fulton, MO)*

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Values ^c	Response options			Tennessee Tech		Mean	Effect size ^d
			Count	%	Count	%		
a.	1	Never	17	4	476	4	2.9	3.0 * -0.13
	2	Sometimes	96	28	3,101	25		
	3	Often	146	42	4,979	39		
	4	Very often	98	26	4,469	33		
		Total	357	100	13,025	100		
b.	1	Never	41	11	755	6	2.7	2.8 *** -0.22
	2	Sometimes	116	33	3,631	29		
	3	Often	123	36	5,018	38		
	4	Very often	77	20	3,614	26		
		Total	357	100	13,018	100		
c.	1	Never	29	8	878	7	2.7	2.8 -0.06
	2	Sometimes	112	33	3,880	30		
	3	Often	135	38	5,283	41		
	4	Very often	82	22	2,962	22		
		Total	358	100	13,003	100		
d.	1	Never	98	29	2,467	20	2.2	2.4 *** -0.24
	2	Sometimes	126	34	4,325	34		
	3	Often	88	24	3,729	28		
	4	Very often	46	12	2,481	18		
		Total	358	100	13,002	100		
e.	1	Never	109	30	3,739	28	2.0	2.1 -0.08
	2	Sometimes	156	44	5,249	41		
	3	Often	68	20	2,956	23		
	4	Very often	24	7	1,048	8		
		Total	357	100	12,992	100		
f.	1	Never	75	21	2,064	17	2.2	2.3 -0.09
	2	Sometimes	154	44	5,541	43		
	3	Often	88	24	3,991	29		
	4	Very often	40	11	1,382	10		
		Total	357	100	12,978	100		
g.	1	Never	73	19	2,056	16	2.3	2.4 * -0.14
	2	Sometimes	146	41	4,837	38		
	3	Often	95	27	4,360	33		
	4	Very often	42	12	1,725	13		
		Total	356	100	12,978	100		
h.	1	Never	90	25	2,546	19	2.2	2.3 * -0.14
	2	Sometimes	138	40	5,023	39		
	3	Often	92	25	3,925	30		
	4	Very often	38	10	1,478	11		
		Total	358	100	12,972	100		
i.	358	100	12,972	100				

NSSE 2020 Experiences with Information Literacy

Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons Tennessee Technological University

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				Tennessee Tech		Information Literacy		Tennessee Tech	Information Literacy	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
j.		1	Never	63	17	1,289	12	2.4	2.6 **	-.15
		2	Sometimes	130	38	3,689	35			
		3	Often	107	30	3,813	35			
		4	Very often	57	16	1,851	18			
		Total		357	100	10,642	100			
k.		1	Never	59	16	1,151	11	2.4	2.6 **	-.17
		2	Sometimes	139	40	4,116	39			
		3	Often	108	29	3,683	34			
		4	Very often	50	14	1,704	16			
		Total		356	100	10,654	100			
l.		1	Never	207	58	5,847	54	1.6	1.7 *	-.11
		2	Sometimes	89	26	2,687	25			
		3	Often	42	11	1,497	14			
		4	Very often	18	5	621	6			
		Total		356	100	10,652	100			
m.		1	Never	190	53	5,342	50	1.7	1.8 *	-.12
		2	Sometimes	105	31	2,931	28			
		3	Often	46	12	1,736	16			
		4	Very often	16	4	647	6			
		Total		357	100	10,656	100			
a.		1	Very little	6	2	311	3	3.5	3.5	.02
		2	Some	30	9	1,101	8			
		3	Quite a bit	73	22	3,124	23			
		4	Very much	246	67	8,426	66			
		Total		355	100	12,962	100			
b. Appropriately citing the sources used in a paper or project	INL02b	1	Very little	7	2	270	2	3.4	3.4	-.11
		2	Some	49	14	1,315	10			
		3	Quite a bit	97	29	3,761	29			
		4	Very much	202	55	7,610	59			
		Total		355	100	12,956	100			
c. Using scholarly or peer reviewed sources in your course assignments		1	Very little	18	5	478	4	3.1	3.3 ***	-.22
		2	Some	78	24	1,736	14			
		3	Quite a bit	93	26	4,026	31			
		4	Very much	167	45	6,705	51			
		Total		356	100	12,945	100			
d.		1	Very little	24	7	677	5	3.0	3.1	-.08
		2	Some	84	24	2,742	21			
		3	Quite a bit	99	29	4,214	32			
		4	Very much	147	40	5,311	41			
		Total		354	100	12,944	100			
e. Using practices (terminology, methods, writing style, etc.) of a specific major or field of study	INL02e	1	Very little	25	7	938	7	2.9	3.0	-.04
		2	Some	97	29	3,153	24			
		3	Quite a bit	101	29	4,319	34			
		4	Very much	131	35	4,517	35			
		Total		354	100	12,927	100			

NSSE 2020 Experiences with Information Literacy

Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons Tennessee Technological University

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				Tennessee Tech		Information Literacy		Tennessee Tech	Information Literacy	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
3. How much has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?										
a. Using information effectively	INL03a	1	Very little	11	3	269	3	3.0	3.1	-.08
		2	Some	85	25	2,529	20			
		3	Quite a bit	135	38	5,856	45			
		4	Very much	121	33	4,296	33			
		Total		352	100	12,950	100			
b. Recognizing biased, misleading, or deceptive information	INL03b <i>(Comparison data are limited to NSSE 2020.)</i>	1	Very little	32	10	731	7	2.8	2.8	-.05
		2	Some	99	29	2,946	28			
		3	Quite a bit	115	33	4,118	38			
		4	Very much	105	28	2,844	27			
		Total		351	100	10,639	100			
c. Evaluating the credibility of your information sources	INL03c <i>(Comparison data are limited to NSSE 2020.)</i>	1	Very little	23	7	516	5	2.9	2.9	-.07
		2	Some	94	28	2,650	25			
		3	Quite a bit	121	35	4,203	39			
		4	Very much	113	30	3,278	31			
		Total		351	100	10,647	100			

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the endnotes page for the key to triangle symbols.

Seniors

						Tennessee Tech			
Item wording or description	Values ^c	Response options	Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Effect size ^d	
a.	1	Never	22	6	407	3	3.0	3.2 *** -.26	
	2	Sometimes	96	25	2,710	19			
	3	Often	146	34	4,624	32			
	4	Very often	153	35	6,920	46			
		Total	417	100	14,661	100			
b.	1	Never	53	14	1,055	8	2.7	2.9 *** -.24	
	2	Sometimes	125	31	3,869	27			
	3	Often	124	29	4,891	33			
	4	Very often	113	26	4,826	32			
		Total	415	100	14,641	100			
c. Received feedback from an instructor that improved your use of information resouovoC.5 (o(e)TJ .6 (ov)21 3.5 (o)3 0042 Tc 0.004i)23.5 se(e r)9.7 copic	1	Never	47	12	1,385	10	2.7	2.7 -.08	
	2	Sometimes	120	30	4,547	31			
	3	Often	146	36	5,051	35			
	4	Very often	100	22	3,645	25			
		Total	413	100	14,628	100			
d.	1	Never	132	34	1,926	15	2.2	2.8 *** -.54	
	2	Sometimes	115	28	3,724	26			
	3	Often	98	23	3,872	26			
	4	Very often	69	16	5,124	33			
		Total	414	100	14,646	100			
e.	1	Never	107	27	4,065	28	2.1	2.2 -.01	
	2	Sometimes	171	41	5,813	40			
	3	Often	96	23	3,147	21			
	4	Very often	41	9	1,593	11			
		Total	415	100	14,618	100			
f. Changed the focus of a paper or project based on information you found while researching the topic	INL01f	1	Never	108	27	2,193	16	2.1	2.4 *** -.30
		2	Sometimes	175	43	6,228	43		
		3	Often	91	21	4,232	28		
		4	Very often	40	9	1,960	13		
		Total	414	100	14,613	100			
g. Looked for a reference that was cited in something you read	INL01g	1	Never	68	17	1,657	12	2.5	2.6 ** -.15
		2	Sometimes	138	34	4,998	34		
		3	Often	136	32	4,788	33		
		4	Very often	73	17	3,167	21		
		Total	415	100	14,610	100			
h. Identified how a book, article, or creative work has contributed to a field of study	INL01h	1	Never	84	21	2,492	18	2.3	2.5 ** -.14
		2	Sometimes	163	40	5,317	36		
		3	Often	110	25	4,385	30		
		4	Very often	57	14	2,405	16		
		Total	414	100	14,599	100			
i. Considered the credibility of an information source	INL01i	1	Never	30	8	742	7	2.9	2.9 -.05
		2	Sometimes	111	27	3,202	26		
		3	Often	153	37	4,580	37		
		4	Very often	119	29	3,886	30		
		Total	413	100	12,410	100			

(Comparison data are limited to NSSE 2020.)

NSSE 2020 Experiences with Information Literacy

Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons

Tennessee Technological University

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				Tennessee Tech		Information Literacy		Tennessee Tech	Information Literacy	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
j.		1	Never	45	11	1,400	12	2.6	2.7	-.02
		2	Sometimes	131	32	4,016	32			
		3	Often	157	38	4,252	35			
		4	Very often	80	19	2,714	22			
			Total	413	100	12,382	100			
k.		1	Never	55	13	1,501	13	2.4	2.5 *	-.10
		2	Sometimes	179	43	4,850	39			
		3	Often	123	30	3,794	30			
		4	Very often	58	14	2,241	18			
			Total	415	100	12,386	100			
l. Used information you found on social media in a paper or project	INL01l	1	Never	253	62	7,138	57	1.6	1.7 *	-.10
		2	Sometimes	98	23	3,139	25			
		3	Often	45	11	1,386	12			
		4	Very often	17	4	722	6			
			Total	413	100	12,385	100			
m. Combined information found on social media with other sources	INL01m	1	Never	234	57	6,453	52	1.7	1.8	-.09
		2	Sometimes	101	24	3,433	27			
		3	Often	58	14	1,680	14			
		4	Very often	22	5	827	7			
			Total	415	100	12,393	100			
2. During the current school year, how much have your instructors emphasized the following?										
a. Not plagiarizing another's data to NSSE 2020.)		1	Very little	20	6	515	4	3.4	3.4	-.08
		2	Some	45	11	1,755	11			
		3	Quite a bit	99	25	3,518	24			
		4	Very much	251	59	8,802	62			
			Total	415	100	14,590	100			
b. Appropriately citing the sources used in a paper or project	INL02b	1	Very little	23	6	533	4	3.2	3.4 ***	-.19
		2	Some	60	15	1,734	12			
		3	Quite a bit	119	30	3,902	27			
		4	Very much	211	49	8,409	58			
			Total	413	100	14,578	100			
c. Using scholarly or peer reviewed sources in your course assignments	INL02c	1	Very little	34	9	749	6	3.1	3.3 ***	-.22
		2	Some	60	16	1,734	12			
		3	Quite a bit	120	30	3,717	25			
		4	Very much	199	46	8,381	56			
			Total	413	100	14,581	100			
d. Questioning the quality of information sources	INL02d	1	Very little	49	13	1,190	9	2.9	3.0	-.09
		2	Some	82	20	3,245	22			
		3	Quite a bit	125	30	4,243	29			
		4	Very much	159	37	5,878	40			
			Total	415	100	14,556	100			
e. Using practices (terminology, methods, writing style, etc.) of a specific major or field of study	INL02e	1	Very little	28	8	804	6	3.1	3.1	-.01
		2	Some	63	16	2,658	18			
		3	Quite a bit	123	31	4,538	31			
		4	Very much	199	46	6,564	45			
			Total	413	100	14,564	100			

NSSE 2020 Experiences with Information Literacy

Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons Tennessee Technological University

Seniors

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values ^c	Response options	Frequency Distributions ^a				Statistical Comparisons ^b		
				Tennessee Tech		Information Literacy		Tennessee Tech	Information Literacy	Effect size ^d
				Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	
3. How much has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?										
a. Using information effectively	INL03a	1	Very little	10	3	252	2	3.2	3.3	-.06
		2	Some	53	13	1,882	14			
		3	Quite a bit	170	42	5,726	39			
		4	Very much	179	42	6,708	45			
		Total		412	100	14,568	100			
b. Recognizing biased, misleading, or deceptive information	INL03b <i>(Comparison data are limited to NSSE 2020.)</i>	1	Very little	30	8	669	6	2.8	3.0 **	-.15
		2	Some	116	29	2,996	25			
		3	Quite a bit	140	35	4,445	35			
		4	Very much	126	28	4,251	34			
		Total		412	100	12,361	100			
c. Evaluating the credibility of your information sources	INL03c <i>(Comparison data are limited to NSSE 2020.)</i>	1	Very little	25	7	528	5	3.0	3.1 *	-.11
		2	Some	95	23	2,500	21			
		3	Quite a bit	146	36	4,537	36			
		4	Very much	148	34	4,787	38			
		Total		414	100	12,352	100			

*p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001 (2-tailed); Refer to the endnotes page for the key to triangle symbols.

First-Year Students

Variable name	N		Information Literacy	Tennessee Tech	Information Literacy	Tennessee Tech	Information Literacy	Comparisons with:		
	Tennessee Tech	Tennessee Tech						Information Literacy	Information Literacy	Information Literacy
INL01a	356	2.89	3.01	.044	.008	0.84	0.85	10,435	.014	-.13
INL01b	355	2.65	2.85	.049	.009	0.92	0.88	377	.000	-.22
INL01c	357	2.73	2.78	.047	.009	0.89	0.86	10,417	.305	-.06
INL01d	357	2.20	2.44	.053	.010	0.99	1.00	10,400	.000	-.24
INL01e	355	2.03	2.10	.046	.009	0.87	0.90	382	.118	-.08
INL01f	355	2.25	2.33	.048	.009	0.91	0.88	10,391	.100	-.09
INL01g	354	2.31	2.44	.049	.009	0.92	0.91	10,388	.011	-.14
INL01h	357	2.21	2.33	.049	.009	0.93	0.92	10,387	.011	-.14
INL01i	357	2.60	2.85	.049	.010	0.93	0.86	383	.000	-.29
INL01j	356	2.45	2.58	.050	.010	0.94	0.92	8,361	.007	-.15
INL01k	355	2.41	2.56	.049	.010	0.92	0.89	8,368	.002	-.17
INL01l	355	1.62	1.72	.045	.010	0.86	0.92	391	.034	-.11
INL01m	356	1.68	1.79	.045	.010	0.85	0.93	394	.013	-.12
INL02a	354	3.54	3.53	.040	.008	0.75	0.75	10,376	.727	.02
INL02b	354	3.36	3.44	.043	.008	0.81	0.76	376	.058	-.11
INL02c	355	3.11	3.30	.050	.008	0.94	0.85	375	.000	-.22
INL02d	353	3.01	3.09	.051	.009	0.96	0.91	10,357	.126	-.08
INL02e	353	2.93	2.97	.051	.009	0.95	0.94	10,348	.447	-.04
INL03a	351	3.01	3.07	.045	.008	0.85	0.79	10,362	.131	-.08
INL03b	351	2.79	2.84	.051	.010	0.96	0.90	377	.377	-.05
INL03c	351	2.89	2.95	.049	.010	0.92	0.88	378	.252	-.07

Seniors

	N						DF ^h	Sig. ⁱ	Effect size ^d
INL01a	417	3.21	.045	.008	0.91	0.85	11,171	.000	-.26
INL01b	415	2.90	.050	.009	1.01	0.95	443	.000	-.24

Endnotes

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.
- 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.
- j.
- k.

Key to symbols:

Your students' average was significantly higher ($p < .05$) with an effect size at least .3 in magnitude.