

## **Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Literacy Assessment and Resources**

### ***ICT Literacy Assessment***

The ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Literacy Assessment is a comprehensive test of information and communication technology skills that uses scenario-based tasks to measure ICT literacy proficiency. It was developed by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) in collaboration with the California State University and other institutions as part of the national Higher Education ICT Initiative. The ICT Literacy Assessment evaluates postsecondary students' ability to define access, manage, integrate, evaluate, create and communicate information in a technological environment.

ICT literacy proficiency is defined as the ability to use digital technology and communication tools and networks appropriately to solve information problems in order to effectively utilize information resources. This includes the ability to use technology as a tool to research, organize, evaluate and communicate information, and the possession of a fundamental understanding of the ethical/legal issues surrounding the access and use of information.

The ICT Literacy Assessment is available for use in the CSU Ed.D programs, utilizing the Advanced Academic Assessment. It contains interactive simulations of information resources and applications such as Web-based documents, journal article databases, and spread-sheets. It evaluates how students solve problems that entail information technologies. It encompasses technical skills and cognitive information competence abilities needed to effectively access, evaluate and use information from a wide range of sources.

The Chancellor's Office contact for use of the ICT Literacy Assessment in Ed.D programs is Gordon Smith at [gwsmith@calstate.edu](mailto:gwsmith@calstate.edu).

For information about the ICT Literacy Assessment, please visit the Educational Testing Service Web site:

[www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org)

### ***Resources for Developing ICT Literacy Skills***

The following are resources for assisting students to develop information and communication technology literacy skills. They were selected from Multimedia Educational Resources for Learning Online and Teaching (MERLOT), CSUs open access portal of thousands of quality resources selected from the world-wide web for use by CSU faculty and students. To utilize these ICT Literacy resources, please visit the websites following the descriptions below.

## **Comprehensive Online Research Education (CORE)**

**CORE** (Comprehensive Online Research Education) is an online tutorial that guides students through the process of developing an effective strategy for identifying, locating and evaluating different types and sources of information. CORE introduces concepts and suggests actions to help students work through each step of the research process, from formulating a topic idea, to searching databases effectively, to critically evaluating what is found. As students proceed through the modules of CORE, they can measure their own mastery through exercises and quizzes.

Website: <http://gemini.lib.purdue.edu/core/login/login.cfm>

## **Evaluating Web Sources**

**Evaluating Web Sources** reviews criteria, address the authoritativeness, accuracy, objectivity, currency, and coverage of web materials. The bibliography includes a range of references related to critically evaluating web and internet materials, selecting web resources, and evaluating information sources.

Website: <http://lib.nmsu.edu/instruction/eval.html>

## **Web Search Techniques**

**The Web Search Techniques** guide contains information about search tools, web search strategies, and evaluation criteria. Key points to keep in mind when searching the web are reviewed. Examples include: (1) different search tools appropriate for different searches; (2) review processes for determining which tools will best serve search needs; (3) approaches for using more than one search tool when looking for information on the web; (4) understanding search tool default syntax that is added to search terms; and (5) evaluating web sites for credibility.

Website: <http://library.nyu.edu/research/rg79.html>

## **Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education**

**The Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education** conform with the knowledge and skill domains assessed by the ICT Literacy Assessment. The Association of College Research Librarians (ACRL) developed these information literacy competency standards. The ACRL web site describes these information literacy competency standards and the relationship between information literacy and information technology proficiencies. It also provides a link to a document containing the ACRL Information Literacy Competency Standards.

Website: <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlstandards/informationliteracycompetency.htm>

For more ICT Literacy resources and for additional information about MERLOT visit: <http://www.merlot.org>