INFORMATION LITERACY LEARNING OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES

**Overall Program Goal**

The librarians are committed to their shared role with faculty in preparing all SMC students to effectively access, search for, use, and critically evaluate digital and print information resources.

The following learning objectives are designed to:

- provide guidance for the development of library research/information literacy programs and sessions integrated into the curriculum, though collaboration with faculty and
- explicitly define and clarify skills, attitudes, and cognitive abilities needed for effective use of library and electronic resources by students at the Basic and at the Secondary level based on the Association of College and Research Libraries information literacy guidelines.

Basic level learning outcomes and objectives, addressed at the freshmen and sophomore levels, are generic in nature and can be applied across disciplines. The ACRL guidelines that these are based on are indicated in brackets.

Secondary level goals and objectives primarily focus on preparing upper-division and graduate students to gain an understanding of and experience using and evaluating the information retrieval tools and primary and secondary sources of knowledge relevant to a discipline or field of study. Inclusion of certain basic-level objectives is necessary because of the high number of transfer students represented in upper-division courses and the need to provide reinforcement for the library-research learning experiences in freshmen composition courses. Basic level skills are also incorporated as necessary into graduate level courses.

**I. Orientation to Library and Electronic Information Resources**

**Basic Level**

**Learning Outcome B1:** The student is acquainted with SMC Library and has a basic understanding of the physical arrangement of materials, library services, and facilities. [ACRL 1, 2, & 5]

Objectives:

a. The student knows the location of service points and equipment. [ACRL 2.3.c & 2.5.a]

b. The student knows the location of basic categories of materials in the Library. [ACRL 2.3.A, B]

c. The student is aware of basic Library policies. [ACRL 5.1 & 5.2]
d. The student understands that individual items within the Library's collections are represented in specific research tools such as the online catalog (Albert), and online databases. [ACRL 1.2.c & 2.3.a]

e. The student can find the library Web site and navigate well enough to find basic resources and services.

**Secondary Level**

**Learning Outcome S1**: The student is acquainted with SMC Library and has a basic understanding of the physical arrangement of materials, library services, and facilities. [ACRL 1, 2, & 5]

**Objective:**

a. The student knows how to determine which subject librarian to contact to arrange for in-depth assistance with research projects, if needed. [ACRL 2.3.c]

**II. Identifying, Locating, and Evaluating Sources of Information**

**Basic Level**

**Learning Outcome B1**: The student knows how to select and use appropriate information retrieval tools to identify and locate sources of information. [ACRL 1. 2]

**Objectives:**

a. The student is aware of the characteristics of basic types of library and Internet sources and when to use them (e.g., books, periodicals, reference sources, library databases and websites). [ACRL 1.2]

b. The student applies an understanding of the differences between finding tools (databases, catalogs, indexes, and Web search engines) and knows how to match the information needed to the appropriate tool. [ACRL 2.1.c. and 2.1.d]

c. The student applies basic concepts of electronic information retrieval, such as truncation, Boolean logic (and/or) and keyword vs. controlled vocabulary searching, to conduct a search for desired information. [ACRL 2.1.c and 2.1.d]

d. The student understands how to use a database to identify articles/books/chapters on a subject and how to use the citation/record to locate the full text in the Library or online via subscription databases; or, if not available in-house is aware of options for obtaining the full-text (e.g., Illiad and Link+). [ACRL2.3.b or 2.3.c]

**Learning Outcome B2**: The student understands the importance of and knows basic strategies for evaluating citations, records, and full-text information. (ACRL 3)
Objectives:

a. The student knows which items in the citation/record are useful in evaluating the timeliness, quality, and appropriateness of information for the specific need. [ACRL 3.2]

b. The student can discern the differences between scholarly and popular information sources. [ACRL 3.2]

Secondary Level

Learning Outcome S1: The student understands how to select and use access/finding tools important to research in his/her field of study, and to identify and locate sources of information in the Library and elsewhere. [ACRL 2]

Objectives:

a. The student knows about and uses other finding tools besides Albert and general cross-disciplinary databases to identify useful sources of information in his/her field of study. This includes the use of specialized reference sources, such as encyclopedias and handbooks, electronic databases/catalogs, and Internet resources, and separately published bibliographies. [ACRL 2.1.c]

b. The student can effectively search the databases available in his/her field by applying more advanced searching concepts, such as use of descriptors, Boolean logic, limiting to specific fields, etc. [ACRL 2.1.d]

c. The student knows the options for obtaining a full-text copy for titles not in the SMC Library collection (e.g., Illiad and Link+). [ACRL 2.3.c]

Learning Outcome S2: The student understands the importance of evaluating the quality and credibility of information and has developed strategies for evaluating citations, records, full-text sources and information obtained in the library, on the Internet, or elsewhere. [ACRL 3]

Objectives:

a. The student is familiar with other means of evaluating the quality and credibility of information, such as consulting book reviews, biographical information about the author, analysis of text and sources cited. (ACRL 3.2)

b. The student is aware of ways to evaluate Internet sources, such as the source of information, affiliation/background of creator of information, analysis of text. [ACRL 3.2]

III. Developing and Using Search Strategy
Basic Level

**Learning Outcome B1:** The student can formulate a search strategy for a term paper that includes exploring a topic, formulating a research question, identifying search terms and selecting and using appropriate finding tools to identify needed information. Objectives: [ACRL 1, 2, 3, and 4]

- a. The student understands the purpose of and knows how to obtain background information about a topic. [ACRL 1.a.c]
- b. The student can apply the process of formulating and refining a topic of interest into a research question/statement. [ACRL 1.b.d]
- c. The student can find keywords, appropriate to his topic [ACRL 1.1.e]
- d. The student uses, when appropriate, bibliographies, footnotes, and references to identify and locate additional sources on the topic. [ACRL 2.e.f]
- e. The student can make informed choices about the kind of information needed in order to reach a satisfactory answer or conclusion to research question(s) [ACRL 1.4 a & b]

Secondary Level

**Learning Outcome S1:** The student can formulate a search strategy for a term paper, senior thesis, master's thesis, project, or dissertation that includes gaining a theoretical background, formulating a research question/statement, determining useful search terms, and identifying appropriate and useful sources of information.

Objectives: [ACRL 1, 2, 3]

- a. The student understands that s/he must draw from his/her own knowledge base, class lectures, the expertise of faculty or other authorities, textbooks and the results of a systematic search strategy, in order to provide a theoretical context for his/her own research. [ACRL 3.6 a-c]
- b. The student becomes familiar with the language of the discipline for the purposes of developing a keyword search strategy. [ACRL 2. a, b, f]
- c. The student understands the role of literature reviews, bibliographies, footnotes, and references in generating additional sources as part of a search strategy and knows how to use these to identify important studies and key authors on a subject. [ACRL 2.1 & 2.2-2.3]

IV. Understanding the Characteristics and Structure of Scholarly and Research Literature

Secondary Level Only
Learning Outcome S1: The student is familiar with how scholarly/professional knowledge in his/her field is communicated and documented through published and unpublished sources. [ACRL 1, 2, & 5]

Objectives:

a. The student understands how a "primary source" is commonly defined in his/her field and knows where primary research is reported in both published and unpublished sources. [ACRL 1.2.e]

b. The student is familiar with some of the major scholarly/professional journals in his/her field and the key access/finding tool(s) to the field's journal literature. [ACRL 1.2]

c. The student is familiar with some of the field's important Internet sites and can access these sites. [ACRL 1.2.c]

d. The student is familiar with citation practices in his/her field and with appropriate style manuals. [ACRL 2.5.c, d]

e. The student is familiar with the fair use of copyrighted material and understands the legal and ethical ramifications of using information sources. [ACRL 5.1.d, 5.3.b]

V. Ethical, economic, and social aspects of information: [ACRL 5]

Basic Level

Learning Outcome B1: The student understands the ethical, legal, and socio-economic issues surrounding information and information technology [ACRL 5.1]:

Objectives:

a. The student shows a basic understanding of privacy and security issues surrounding information including privacy of patron library records and other transactions and security issues regarding use of the Internet and other electronic resources [ACRL 5.1.a].

b. The student understands the difference between freely available information on the Web and proprietary information available through library databases and print collections [ACRL 5.1.b].

c. The student understands the basic concept of copyright and intellectual property as it relates to both print and online resources [ACRL 5.1d].

Learning Outcome B2: The student understands laws, regulations, institutional policies and etiquette related to the access and use of information resources [ACRL 5.2]

Basic Objectives:
a. The student understands how to access library databases from off campus (ACRL Standard 5.2.b). The student has a campus email address and knows how to access it [ACRL 5.2.b].

b. The student understands how to access Moodle or ERes for use in class work [ACRL 5.2.b].

c. The student understands campus policies regarding the use of email and the Internet. [ACRL 5.2.c]

d. The student understands how to legally obtain, store, and disseminate text, data, images or sounds [ACRL 5.2.e].

e. The student understands what constitutes plagiarism and does not represent work attributable to others as his/her own (ACRL 5.2.f)

f. The student is familiar with the SMC campus honor code and has agreed to adhere to it. [ACRL 5.2.f]

Learning Outcome B3: The student acknowledges the use of information sources in a written paper, project, or performance [ACRL 5.3].

Basic Objective:

a. Selects an appropriate documentation style and uses it consistently to cite sources [ACRL 5.2.a].

b. The student obtains permission and posts granted notices for copyrighted materials [ACRL 5.2.b]

Learning Outcome S1: The student engaged in an original research or experimentation understands the laws, regulations, institutional policies and etiquette related to the access and use of information resources (ACRL Standard 5.2)

Secondary Objective:

a. The student understands institutional policies regarding Human Subjects Research [ACRL 5.2.g]

Basic Level

VI. Effective Use of Information [ACRL 4]

Secondary Level (Only):

Learning Outcome S1: The student builds on their discipline knowledge and prior research experience to formulate research strategies and to complete research projects within their discipline. [ACRL 4]
Objectives:

a. The students will be able to research and produce projects in the form appropriate to their discipline. [ACRL 4.1.a]

b. The student will be able to use information technology in their research and to transfer information into new formats as required in order to produce their work in the desired format for their discipline. [ACRL 4.1a c & d]

c. The student will be able to record and adapt their research strategy based on results. [ACRL 4. 1.b & 4.2.a& b]

d. Student is able to communicate the results using appropriate technology. [3.a-d]