Tennessee State University Library, Avon Williams Campus

Chris Langer

User Services Librarian

Information Literacy for Institute of Government Students

The goal of this course is to ensure that Tennessee State University Institute of Government graduates are literate in regard to information, and can determine the type and amount of information they need; can access and judge the information critically and incorporate this information into a knowledge base and ethical outlook, use the information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose and understand the economic, legal and social issues about the use of information.

Institute of Government Students in General will be able to:

- determine the what information is needed by
    - identify a research topic by consulting with teachers and librarians to
    - the information can be formulated as a question
    - learning how to broaden or narrow the topic as needed to fit the research concept
    - put a finger on the key words, concepts, or categories that define the research topic
    - using analytical and critical thinking skills in identifying information needed
- identify, locate and retrieve information by
    - finding what sort of information is needed
    - determining where to find the information
    - finding strategies to drill down to the needed information in various sources
- utilize or construct and implement effective search strategies by
    - formulating an effective search strategy
    - conducting searches using appropriate resources
    - evaluating search results and modifying search strategies as needed

First Year Institute of Government Students will be able to:

- go to the library's website and navigate it efficiently
- query the Library's online resources effectively, including the online catalog, databases, journals, e-books, etc.

- use controlled vocabulary to define topics and concepts and search for them using library resources.
- evaluate the scope, content and organization of various sources and information, and compile pertinent citation information for possible use
- glean conclusions from the information gathered, meld new information with previous information and identify the concepts of topics which support the chosen thesis
- know what plagiarism is and what its deleterious effects are
- find a citation style that fits your topic and use it correctly and consistently

Intermediate and Advanced Level Institute of Government Students will be able to:

- develop a thesis statement and formulate questions based on the needed information
- evaluate potential resources in a variety of formats, including databases, data set, web sites, printed materials and others
- use internet search engines with a variety of command languages, protocols and search parameters.
- know how to use interlibrary loan, Athena, and TALC
- recognize that existing information combined with original thought, analysis and experimentation can produce new information
- know that knowledge is organized into disciplines and that this can influence the way information is acquired
- use various methods to retrieve information in various formats, including software, reader/printer scanners, audio visual equipment and others
- evaluate the reliability, validity, accuracy, authority and bias, if any, of the information using various methods
- use computer and other technologies, including databases, spreadsheets, charts to study the interaction of ideas
- broaden the research topic to construct new hypothesis that may require additional information
- test theories with appropriate discipline techniques, including formulas, simulations
- properly use the obtained information by citing resources according to the copyright laws