

Name: _____ Core: Year _____ F ___ Sp ___ Sm ___.

RESEARCH FOR 21ST CENTURY INFORMATION LITERACY SELF-ASSESSMENT

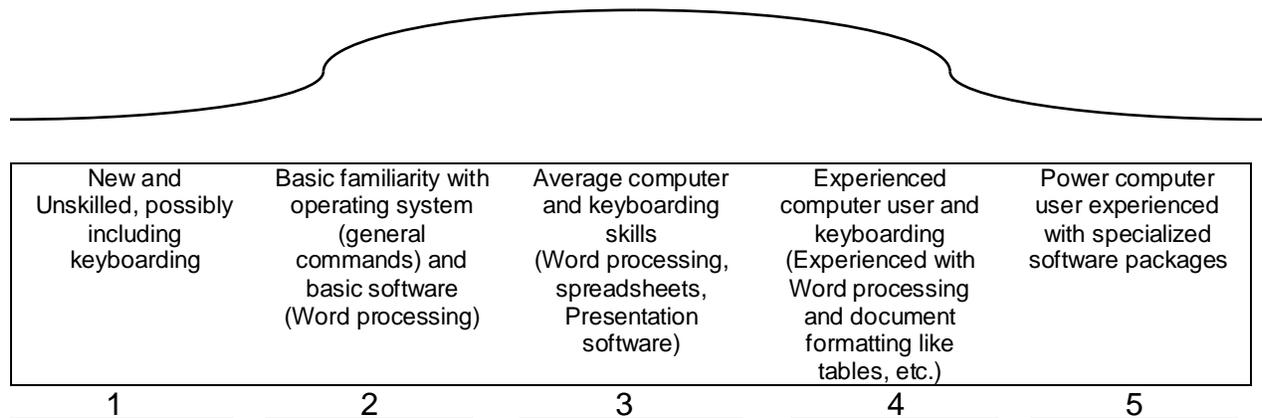
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Information Literacy is the ability to identify information needs, locate it, evaluate its quality, and use the information effectively. Adult learners coming into graduate research programs enter with varying degrees of Information Literacy. Several factors contribute to this: familiarity with computers, familiarity with basic types of computer software, familiarity with libraries, how long it has been since they were in school, their experience with the process of research, and even their personal attitudes of anxiety over feelings of inadequacy as a result of any of the factors just mentioned. Becoming a 21st century researcher involves addressing these factors.

Therefore, it is helpful to begin the journey toward Information Literacy by assessing where you are at the beginning of the graduate journey. Experience with students over time shows that there are a cluster of competencies that a 21st century scholar-practitioner needs. Adults come into the OGS program with differing starting points. Ideally, through the process of their educational journey, they grow developmentally in each of the needed areas.

Although the developmental Bell Curves below are only illustrative and not based on social research, they can help you assess yourself at the beginning of the program. Brutal honesty is the best route to help and support!

Familiarity and Skill with Computers and Basic Software Programs:



Explain:

Internet Skills:



Feeling challenged: lack basic internet user skills (browsers, searching, websites, and email)	Basic familiarity with basic internet user skills (browsers, searching, websites, and email)	Average internet user skills (have been using them for a while)	Experienced internet user skills (feel confident you can teach yourself what you do not know)	Experienced internet user skills (can design web pages, blogs, databases, etc.)
1	2	3	4	5

Explain:

Information Literacy Research Skills



Feeling challenged: little knowledge or experience with finding research beyond Google searching	Basic familiarity with online library catalogue searches and online databases	Some experience with Key Word Searching (Feel able to distinguish popular from scholarly sources)	Experienced with Key Word Searching (Can translate interests into questions and identify relevant topics)	Experienced internet Researcher (have done academic research successfully before)
1	2	3	4	5

Explain:

Degree of Research Focus



No clue about research topic, but desire to learn research skills.	Have general interests based on professional experience	Have areas of professional concern, need to narrow topic	Have areas of desired contribution & seek to promote change	Already have specific research topic and want guidance
1	2	3	4	5

Explain: