NSSE 2024 Topical Module Report
Experiences with Information Literacy

Earlham College

Updated for NSSE 2024, this module was developed in collaboration with college and university librarians from the Association of College & Research Libraries. Items focus on students' use of information sources, research-based inquiry, and experiences traditionally associated with research libraries. It complements questions on the core survey about reflective & integrative learning, higher-order learning, and assigned reading and writing.

Comparison group details are in the online Selected Comparison Groups report, linked in the Data & Reports table on the Institution Interface. A PDF copy is also saved in your report download folder.

This page intentionally left blank.

NSSE 2024 Experiences with Information Literacy

Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons
Earlham College

First-Year Students

				Frequency Distributions[a]				Statistical Comparisons[b]		
				Earlham		All institutions		Earlham	All institutions	
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values[c]	Response options	Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size[d]
1. During the current school year, about how often have you done the following?										
a. Completed an assignment using an information source (book, article, website, etc.) other than required course readings	INLsource	1	Never	0	0	42	3			
		2	Sometimes	16	23	426	26			
		3	Often	18	29	643	38	**3.3**	3.0 *	.28
		4	Very often	32	48	611	33		△	
			Total	66	100	1,722	100			
b. Completed an assignment using a library's physical or digital collection of articles, books, or journals (JSTOR, EBSCO, LexisNexis, ProQuest, InterLibrary Loan, etc.)	INLcollection	1	Never	7	11	427	25			
		2	Sometimes	22	35	603	36			
		3	Often	21	29	422	24	**2.7**	2.3 **	.37
		4	Very often	16	25	275	15		▲	
			Total	66	100	1,727	100			
c. Received help from the library (met with a librarian, used the library's chat service, etc.)	INLhelp	1	Never	24	36	924	55			
		2	Sometimes	30	44	493	28			
		3	Often	7	10	202	11	**1.9**	1.7 *	.29
		4	Very often	6	10	107	6		△	
			Total	67	100	1,726	100			
d. Changed the focus of a paper or project based on information you found while researching the topic	INLfocus	1	Never	4	5	333	19			
		2	Sometimes	29	43	763	46			
		3	Often	24	39	460	26	**2.6**	2.2 ***	.42
		4	Very often	9	13	167	9		▲	
			Total	66	100	1,723	100			
e. Looked for an information source that was cited in something you read	INLcited	1	Never	7	9	226	13			
		2	Sometimes	11	15	632	37			
		3	Often	25	39	582	34	**3.0**	2.5 ***	.56
		4	Very often	23	37	283	16		▲	
			Total	66	100	1,723	100			
f. Evaluated an information source by conducting additional research	INLevaladd	1	Never	1	1	171	10			
		2	Sometimes	23	32	647	38			
		3	Often	21	33	633	37	**3.0**	2.6 ***	.50
		4	Very often	21	34	265	15		▲	
			Total	66	100	1,716	100			
g. Identified information that was biased, misleading, or deceptive	INLbiased	1	Never	2	2	237	14			
		2	Sometimes	25	37	690	39			
		3	Often	20	27	558	34	**2.9**	2.5 ***	.53
		4	Very often	19	34	236	13		▲	
			Total	66	100	1,721	100			
h. Decided not to use an information source in a course assignment due to its questionable quality	INLquesqual	1	Never	6	9	239	16			
		2	Sometimes	23	33	716	41			
		3	Often	22	34	525	31	**2.7**	2.4 **	.37
		4	Very often	15	25	241	13		▲	
			Total	66	100	1,721	100			
i. Referred to an information source you found on social media for an assignment	INLsocmed	1	Never	29	43	880	53			
		2	Sometimes	21	31	455	26			
		3	Often	5	10	274	15	**2.0**	1.7 *	.26
		4	Very often	11	16	109	6		△	
			Total	66	100	1,718	100			

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

NSSE 2024 Experiences with Information Literacy
Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons
Earlham College

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values[c]	Response options	Frequency Distributions[a] Earlham Count	Earlham %	All institutions Count	All institutions %	Statistical Comparisons[b] Earlham Mean	All institutions Mean	Effect size[d]
j. Consulted with an expert as an information source (on campus, in community)	INLexpert	1	Never	26	39	855	51			
		2	Sometimes	19	30	494	28			
		3	Often	12	17	259	15	2.1	1.7 **	.34
		4	Very often	9	14	106	5	▲		
			Total	66	100	1,714	100			
k. Coached or mentored a classmate or peer with research for their course assignment	INLcoach	1	Never	26	38	899	55			
		2	Sometimes	19	27	469	25			
		3	Often	12	18	264	15	2.1	1.7 **	.49
		4	Very often	10	17	90	5	▲		
			Total	67	100	1,722	100			

2. Which of the following have you done while in college or do you plan to do before you graduate?[j]

Item wording or description	Variable name		Response options	Earlham Count	Earlham %	All institutions Count	All institutions %	Earlham Mean	All institutions Mean	Effect size
a. Attend a campus-sponsored session about conducting research (instructional session with a librarian, writing center for help with a research paper, a library or department workshop, etc.)	INLsession *(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")*		Have not decided	13	18	593	35			
			Do not plan to do	8	14	336	20			
			Plan to do	18	28	441	24	37%	16% ***	.49
			Done or in progress	26	37	271	16	▲		
			To my knowledge is not available	2	2	79	5			
			Total	67	100	1,720	100			
b. Present, publish, or publicly share the results of your research, scholarly activity, or creative work to an audience beyond your classmates (on- or off-campus academic conference, exhibition, research journal, literary magazine, professional blog, etc.)	INLshare *(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")*		Have not decided	13	20	626	37			
			Do not plan to do	12	22	499	30			
			Plan to do	34	48	428	23	8%	4%	.16
			Done or in progress	6	8	88	4			
			To my knowledge is not available	1	2	75	5			
			Total	66	100	1,716	100			
c. Use library resources for a non-academic task (leisure reading, researching jobs, watching films, etc.)	INLnonacad *(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")*		Have not decided	10	13	484	30			
			Do not plan to do	9	14	343	20			
			Plan to do	19	29	538	31	42%	17% ***	.55
			Done or in progress	28	42	312	17	▲		
			To my knowledge is not available	1	2	40	2			
			Total	67	100	1,717	100			

First-Year Students

Item wording or description	Variable name	Values[c]	Response options	Earlham Count	Earlham %	All institutions Count	All institutions %	Earlham Mean	All institutions Mean	Effect size[d]
3. How much has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?										
a. Understanding the research and writing styles or practices of your major or field of study	INLdevstyle	0	Not at all	1	1	41	3	**2.8**	2.5 * △	.26
		1	Very little	5	8	181	11			
		2	Some	18	26	529	31			
		3	Quite a bit	27	40	681	39			
		4	Very much	15	25	285	15			
			Total	66	100	1,717	100			
a. Developming information and research management strategies (note-taking, using citation software, document organization, etc.)	INLdevstrat	0	Not at all	0	0	57	4	**2.8**	2.5 ** ▲	.30
		1	Very little	2	3	189	12			
		2	Some	23	34	506	31			
		3	Quite a bit	25	39	637	36			
		4	Very much	15	24	326	18			
			Total	65	100	1,715	100			
a. Developing your own research skills to identify correct information for personal reasons (not related to your courses)	INLdevpers	0	Not at all	1	1	90	5	**2.7**	2.4 ** ▲	.33
		1	Very little	6	7	239	14			
		2	Some	22	33	541	32			
		3	Quite a bit	22	35	595	34			
		4	Very much	15	23	252	14			
			Total	66	100	1,717	100			
a. Keeping an open mind when encountering opposing perspectives during your research	INLdevopen	0	Not at all	1	1	34	2	**3.1**	2.8 ** ▲	.33
		1	Very little	3	5	106	6			
		2	Some	9	13	445	28			
		3	Quite a bit	30	45	672	38			
		4	Very much	23	36	460	26			
			Total	66	100	1,717	100			

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

NSSE 2024 Experiences with Information Literacy
Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons
Earlham College

Seniors

				Frequency Distributions[a]				Statistical Comparisons[b]		
				Earlham		All institutions		Earlham	All institutions	
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values[c]	Response options	Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size[d]
1. During the current school year, about how often have you done the following?										
a. Completed an assignment using an information source (book, article, website, etc.) other than required course readings	INLsource	1	Never	0	0	40	2	**3.4**	3.1	.25
		2	Sometimes	4	15	334	22			
		3	Often	10	35	577	35			
		4	Very often	14	50	692	41			
			Total	28	100	1,643	100			
b. Completed an assignment using a library's physical or digital collection of articles, books, or journals (JSTOR, EBSCO, LexisNexis, ProQuest, InterLibrary Loan, etc.)	INLcollection	1	Never	1	7	390	22	**3.0** ▲	2.5 **	.55
		2	Sometimes	5	22	484	31			
		3	Often	10	30	415	24			
		4	Very often	12	41	354	22			
			Total	28	100	1,643	100			
c. Received help from the library (met with a librarian, used the library's chat service, etc.)	INLhelp	1	Never	12	45	967	56	**1.8**	1.7	.17
		2	Sometimes	8	30	406	27			
		3	Often	7	22	162	10			
		4	Very often	1	3	106	6			
			Total	28	100	1,641	100			
d. Changed the focus of a paper or project based on information you found while researching the topic	INLfocus	1	Never	2	5	346	20	**2.5**	2.3	.29
		2	Sometimes	10	44	713	43			
		3	Often	12	43	412	27			
		4	Very often	3	8	167	10			
			Total	27	100	1,638	100			
e. Looked for an information source that was cited in something you read	INLcited	1	Never	0	0	212	13	**3.3** ▲	2.6 ***	.67
		2	Sometimes	6	20	535	32			
		3	Often	8	34	569	34			
		4	Very often	14	46	323	20			
			Total	28	100	1,639	100			
f. Evaluated an information source by conducting additional research	INLevaladd	1	Never	0	0	185	11	**3.1** ▲	2.7 **	.49
		2	Sometimes	6	25	520	31			
		3	Often	12	40	613	38			
		4	Very often	10	36	318	20			
			Total	28	100	1,636	100			
g. Identified information that was biased, misleading, or deceptive	INLbiased	1	Never	0	0	241	13	**2.6**	2.5	.11
		2	Sometimes	12	49	671	42			
		3	Often	14	45	475	29			
		4	Very often	2	6	246	15			
			Total	28	100	1,633	100			
h. Decided not to use an information source in a course assignment due to its questionable quality	INLquesqual	1	Never	1	3	236	15	**2.7**	2.4	.35
		2	Sometimes	12	44	702	44			
		3	Often	10	31	439	25			
		4	Very often	5	22	258	15			
			Total	28	100	1,635	100			
i. Referred to an information source you found on social media for an assignment	INLsocmed	1	Never	15	58	880	55	**1.7**	1.7	.01
		2	Sometimes	4	20	431	27			
		3	Often	7	18	207	11			
		4	Very often	2	5	113	7			
			Total	28	100	1,631	100			

NSSE 2024 Experiences with Information Literacy
Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons
Earlham College

Seniors

| | | | | Frequency Distributions[a] | | | | Statistical Comparisons[b] | | |
| | | | | Earlham | | All institutions | | Earlham | All institutions | |
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values[c]	Response options	Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size[d]
j. Consulted with an expert as an information source (on campus, in community)	INLexpert	1	Never	8	26	723	46			
		2	Sometimes	13	57	536	32			
		3	Often	6	15	250	14	1.9	1.8	.13
		4	Very often	1	3	126	7			
			Total	28	100	1,635	100			
k. Coached or mentored a classmate or peer with research for their course assignment	INLcoach	1	Never	7	28	777	51			
		2	Sometimes	9	37	491	29			
		3	Often	8	25	251	14	2.2	1.8 *	.45
		4	Very often	4	10	118	6		▲	
			Total	28	100	1,637	100			

2. Which of the following have you done while in college or do you plan to do before you graduate?[j]

Item wording or description	Variable name	Response options	Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size[d]
a. Attend a campus-sponsored session about conducting research (instructional session with a librarian, writing center for help with a research paper, a library or department workshop, etc.)	INLsession *(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")*	Have not decided	1	3	312	19			
		Do not plan to do	4	15	686	42			
		Plan to do	1	3	160	9	72%	21% ***	1.07
		Done or in progress	19	72	351	21	▲	▲	
		To my knowledge is not available	3	9	127	9			
		Total	28	100	1,636	100			
b. Present, publish, or publicly share the results of your research, scholarly activity, or creative work to an audience beyond your classmates (on- or off-campus academic conference, exhibition, research journal, literary magazine, professional blog, etc.	INLshare *(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")*	Have not decided	2	5	284	17			
		Do not plan to do	4	15	729	45			
		Plan to do	8	25	228	13	55%	18%	.81
		Done or in progress	14	55	299	18	▲		
		To my knowledge is not available	0	0	94	7			
		Total	28	100	1,634	100			
c. Use library resources for a non-academic task (leisure reading, researching jobs, watching films, etc.)	INLnonacad *(Means indicate the percentage who responded "Done or in progress.")*	Have not decided	3	12	297	17			
		Do not plan to do	9	32	684	41			
		Plan to do	2	5	199	12	50%	26% ***	.50
		Done or in progress	14	50	396	26	▲		
		To my knowledge is not available	0	0	59	4			
		Total	28	100	1,635	100			

NSSE 2024 Experiences with Information Literacy
Frequencies and Statistical Comparisons
Earlham College

Seniors

				Frequency Distributions[a]				Statistical Comparisons[b]		
				Earlham		All institutions		Earlham	All institutions	
Item wording or description	Variable name	Values[c]	Response options	Count	%	Count	%	Mean	Mean	Effect size[d]
3. How much has your experience at this institution contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?										
a. Understanding the research and writing styles or practices of your major or field of study	INLdevstyle	0	Not at all	0	0	28	2	**3.3**	2.9 * ▲	.43
		1	Very little	3	8	94	6			
		2	Some	3	8	357	23			
		3	Quite a bit	8	34	681	40			
		4	Very much	14	50	477	28			
			Total	28	100	1,637	100			
a. Developming information and research management strategies (note-taking, using citation software, document organization, etc.)	INLdevstrat	0	Not at all	0	0	36	3	**3.1**	2.7 * ▲	.40
		1	Very little	1	3	129	9			
		2	Some	5	17	406	25			
		3	Quite a bit	11	43	629	38			
		4	Very much	11	37	431	25			
			Total	28	100	1,631	100			
a. Developing your own research skills to identify correct information for personal reasons (not related to your courses)	INLdevpers	0	Not at all	0	0	70	5	**3.0**	2.6 ** ▲	.42
		1	Very little	2	5	165	10			
		2	Some	5	13	461	30			
		3	Quite a bit	14	55	550	32			
		4	Very much	7	27	386	23			
			Total	28	100	1,632	100			
a. Keeping an open mind when encountering opposing perspectives during your research	INLdevopen	0	Not at all	0	0	36	3	**3.1**	2.9	.16
		1	Very little	3	12	81	5			
		2	Some	3	8	375	24			
		3	Quite a bit	11	43	610	35			
		4	Very much	11	37	533	32			
			Total	28	100	1,635	100			

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

NSSE 2024 TOPICAL MODULE REPORT • 8

First-Year Students

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error[f]		Standard deviation[g]		DF[h]	Sig.[i]	Effect size[d]
	Earlham	Earlham	All institutions	Earlham	All institutions	Earlham	All institutions	Comparisons with: All institutions		
INLsource	65	3.25	3.02	.100	.013	.81	.84	3,975	.026	.28
INLcollection	66	2.68	2.30	.121	.016	.98	1.01	3,985	.003	.37
INLhelp	67	1.94	1.68	.114	.014	.93	.89	3,987	.018	.29
INLfocus	65	2.60	2.24	.096	.014	.78	.86	3,971	.001	.42
INLcited	66	3.03	2.52	.117	.015	.95	.91	3,983	.000	.56
INLevaladd	65	2.99	2.56	.104	.014	.85	.86	3,962	.000	.50
INLbiased	65	2.92	2.45	.111	.014	.90	.89	3,967	.000	.53
INLquesqual	66	2.75	2.41	.115	.014	.93	.90	3,975	.003	.37
INLsocmed	66	1.99	1.75	.134	.015	1.09	.92	3,969	.034	.26
INLexpert	66	2.06	1.74	.131	.014	1.06	.90	3,965	.006	.34
INLcoach	67	2.13	1.70	.135	.014	1.11	.90	67	.002	.49
INLsession[k]	67	37%	16%	.060	.006	--	--	--	.001	.49
INLshare[k]	65	8%	4%	.034	.003	--	--	--	.258	.16
INLnonacad[k]	67	42%	17%	.061	.006	--	--	--	.000	.55
INLdevstyle	66	2.79	2.54	.117	.016	.95	.97	3,961	.037	.26
INLdevstrat	65	2.83	2.52	.103	.016	.84	1.03	68	.004	.30
INLdevpers	66	2.71	2.37	.116	.017	.95	1.06	3,957	.008	.33
INLdevopen	66	3.11	2.79	.109	.016	.89	.97	3,957	.007	.33

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

NSSE 2024 Experiences with Information Literacy
Detailed Statistics[e]
Earlham College

Seniors

Variable name	N	Mean		Standard error[f]		Standard deviation[g]		DF[h]	Sig.[i]	Effect size[d]
	Earlham	Earlham	All institutions	Earlham	All institutions	Earlham	All institutions	Comparisons with: All institutions		
INLsource	29	3.36	3.15	.138	.015	.74	.84	3,221	.186	.25
INLcollection	29	3.04	2.46	.183	.019	.98	1.07	3,216	.004	.55
INLhelp	29	1.82	1.66	.165	.016	.88	.90	3,202	.352	.17
INLfocus	26	2.54	2.27	.143	.016	.73	.90	3,200	.133	.29
INLcited	29	3.26	2.62	.146	.017	.78	.95	3,214	.000	.67
INLevaladd	29	3.11	2.66	.146	.016	.78	.92	3,201	.009	.49
INLbiased	29	2.57	2.47	.115	.016	.62	.91	29	.396	.11
INLquesqual	29	2.73	2.41	.158	.016	.85	.92	3,198	.065	.35
INLsocmed	29	1.70	1.68	.177	.016	.95	.91	3,187	.940	.01
INLexpert	29	1.94	1.82	.136	.016	.72	.93	28	.384	.13
INLcoach	29	2.17	1.75	.181	.016	.97	.92	3,204	.016	.45
INLsession[k]	29	72%	21%	.086	.007	--	--	--	.000	1.07
INLshare[k]	29	55%	18%	.095	.007	--	--	--	.000	.81
INLnonacad[k]	29	50%	26%	.095	.008	--	--	--	.018	.50
INLdevstyle	29	3.28	2.86	.171	.017	.91	.98	3,202	.023	.43
INLdevstrat	29	3.15	2.74	.150	.018	.80	1.02	3,187	.034	.40
INLdevpers	29	3.05	2.58	.147	.020	.79	1.10	29	.004	.42
INLdevopen	29	3.05	2.88	.184	.018	.99	1.02	3,195	.387	.16

Endnotes

a. Column percentages are weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. Counts are unweighted; column percentages cannot be replicated from counts. Comparison group details are in the Selected Comparison Groups report, linked in the Data & Reports table on the Institution Interface.

b. All statistics are weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Unless otherwise noted, statistical comparisons are two-tailed independent t-tests. Items with categorical response sets are left blank.

c. These are the values used to calculate means. For the majority of items, these values match the codes in the data file and codebook.

d. Effect size for independent t-tests uses Cohen's d; z-tests use Cohen's h.

e. Statistics are weighted by institution-reported sex and enrollment status (and institution size for comparison groups). Categorical items are not listed.

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 Ns due to weighting and whether equal variances were assumed.

i. Statistical comparisons are two-tailed independent t-tests or z-tests. Statistical significance represents the probability that the difference between your students' mean and that of the students in the comparison group is due to chance.

j. Statistical comparison uses z-test to compare the proportion who responded (depending on the item) "Done or in progress" or "Yes" with all who responded otherwise.

k. Mean represents the proportion who responded (depending on the item) "Done or in progress" or "Yes."

Key to symbols:

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

△ **Your students' average** was significantly higher (p < .05) with an effect size less than .3 in magnitude.

▽ **Your students' average** was significantly lower (p < .05) with an effect size less than .3 in magnitude.

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

Note: It is important to interpret the direction of differences relative to item wording and your institutional context. You may not see all of these symbols in your report.