Information Literacy is Everywhere! Strategic alignment of SU Libraries learning outcomes with Academic Programs

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Abstract

SU Libraries (SUL) are developing a programmatic approach to information literacy. By aligning SUL's information literacy student learning outcomes with relevant outcomes in academic programs, the information literacy librarian can be strategic in moving the program forward. The alignment was completed by analyzing all program learning outcomes in Tk20 for themes related to information literacy knowledge practices and dispositions articulated by the SU Libraries Information Literacy program.

Methods

Thematic keywords were selected from the SUL Information Literacy program learning outcomes and the Association of College and Research Libraries' Framework for Information Literacy in Higher Education. (See highlighted text below.) A text search for those keywords was run across all 1,193 departmental learning outcomes that were entered into Tk20.
Curriculum mapping of SUL instructional activities was compared in order to identify gaps and opportunities.

Institutional Context

In December, 2018, the University Senate approved six shared competencies and corresponding framing language that will guide the undergraduate student learning experience in all University academic programs, beginning with a pilot assessment in fall 2019. The sixth competency, **"Information Literacy and Technological Agility"** is framed with the following language:

"Identification, collection, evaluation, and responsible use of information. Effective, ethical, and critical application of various technologies and media in academic, creative, personal, and professional endeavors."

Currently, SUL is not required to assess student learning. HOWEVER, our instruction aligns with the sixth competency. The SUL information literacy program is poised to contribute significantly to the delivery and assessment of this sixth shared competency through strategic planning and partnership with academic and co-curricular units across campus!

Syracuse Libraries Information Literacy Outcomes

Program outcomes were developed by the SUL Information Literacy Committee and were informed by the Association of College and Research Libraries' *Framework for Information Literacy* and the mission and values of the Syracuse University Libraries.
Through participation in our information literacy program, members of the Syracuse University community will:

- Embrace the value of information literacy as essential to a pursuit of lifelong learning
- Successfully navigate the information landscape by
  identifying information needs,
  locating, accessing, evaluating, and connecting information resources, and
  creating and managing information and research workflows in an ethical and sustainable manner
- Engage with the social, political, and economic contexts through which information is created and disseminated
- Recognize Syracuse University Libraries and its staff as integral to their creative and research practices

The framework is characterized by the following six frames:
Authority Is Constructed and Contextual
Information Creation as a Process
Information Has Value
Research as Inquiry
Scholarship as Conversation
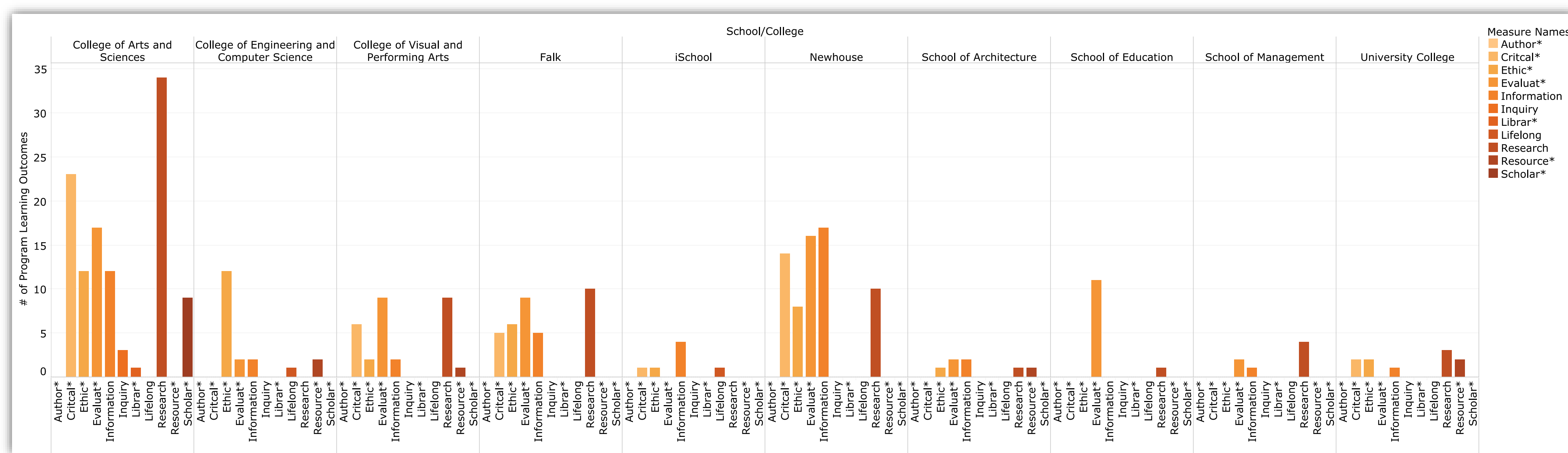Searching as Strategic Exploration

Limitations and Future Considerations

Admittedly, this project was unscientific and informal. Future analyses will require a series of considerations:

1. The data entered into Tk20 do not reflect 100% participation by schools and colleges. As participation increases, future analyses should be more useful.
2. SUL instruction reporting data is not consistent with SU registrar's naming of majors and minors, SUL will seek to align reporting in the future.
3. Selected thematic keywords are not the only way that Information Literacy is described. Further, analysis only identified the presence of a keyword in a learning outcome. Future analyses should include review of learning outcomes in context by a team that has gone through norming exercises.

Where is Information Literacy Happening across SU?

This chart shows occurrences of the Information Literacy code words in the Schools and Colleges that loaded Program Learning Outcomes into Tk20

Of the 182 undergraduate majors/minors reporting their Program Learning Outcomes, 124 have at least one IL key term in at least one of their PLOs, or 68%.

Where necessary, wildcards were used to catch variations in the root word. Interestingly, Librar* only appears once, in a History department outcome.

Keyword	Frequency
Research	72
Evaluat*	68
Critcal*	51
Information	46
Ethic*	44
Scholar*	9
Resource*	6
Inquiry	3
Lifelong	2
Librar*	1
Author*	0
Sum of Terms	302

Where are the Libraries teaching IL?

The Libraries are teaching sessions in the following departments.

Departments with at least one IL keyword in their program learning outcomes as reported in Tk20.	Library instruction in AY 17-18	Departments with at least one IL keyword in their program learning outcomes as reported in Tk20.	Library instruction in AY 17-18
College of Arts and Sciences		VPA, cont.	
African American Studies BA		Environmental and Interior Design BFA	
Anthropology BA	y	Fashion Design BFA	y
Arabic Minor		Film BFA	
Art History BA	y	Industrial and Interaction Design BID	
Audiology AUD		Music Industry BMUS	
Biochemistry BS		Organ BMUS	
Chemistry BA/BS	y	Percussion BMUS	
Chemistry BS Medicinal Chemistry Track		Physical Computing Minor	
Chinese Studies Minor		Piano BMUS	
Citizenship and Civic Engagement BA		Stage Management BFA	
Classics BA		Strings BMUS	
Cognitive Science Minor		Studio Arts BFA, BS	y
Communication Sciences and Disorders BS	y	Theater Design and Technology BFA	
Energy and Its Impacts Integrated Learning Major BA/BS		Visual Culture Minor	
English and Textual Studies BA		Voice BMUS	y
English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)	y	Wind Instruments BMUS	
Environment and Society Minor		Falk	
Ethics Integrated Learning Major BA/BS		Addiction Studies Minor	
Forensic Science Integrated Learning Major BA/BS		Child and Family Policy Minor	
Geography BA	y	Gerontology Interdisciplinary Minor	
German Language, Literature and Culture BA		Human Development and Family Science BS	y
History BA	y	Mindfulness and Contemplative Studies Minor	
History of Architecture BA		Nutrition BS (DPD)	y
International Relations BA		Nutrition Science BS	y
Italian Language, Literature and Culture BA		Public Health BS	y
Japanese Studies Minor		Social Welfare Minor	
Korean		Social Work BS	y
Language Teaching		Sport Management BS	y
Liberal Arts Core		Sport Revenue Management and Operations Minor	
Linguistics BA	y	iSchool	
Medical Anthropology Minor		Information Management and Technology BS	y
Medicolegal Death Investigation CRT		Newhouse	
Medieval and Renaissance Studies Minor		Advertising BS	y
Modern Jewish Studies BA		Broadcast and Digital Journalism BS	y
Music History and Cultures BA		Graphic Design BS	
Native American and Indigenous Studies Minor		Magazine BS	y
Neuroscience Integrated Learning Major BA/BS		Newspaper and Online Journalism BS	y
Philosophy BA	y	Photography BS	
Physics BS		Public Relations BS	y
Policy Studies BA	y	Television, Radio and Film BS	
Political Philosophy BA		School of Architecture	
Political Science BA	y	Architecture B ARCH	y
Psychology BA		School of Education	
Psychology BS		Art Education in BFA	
Religion BA	y	English Education Prep 7-12 BA	y
Russian Language, Literature and Culture BA		Health and Exercise Science BS	y
Sociology BA	y	Health and Physical Education BS	
Spanish Education BA	y	Inclusive Early Childhood Special Education BS	
Turkish		Inclusive Elementary and Special Education BS	
Writing and Rhetoric BA		Math Education BA BS	
College of Engineering and Computer Science		Music Education Prep BMUS	y
Aerospace Engineering BS	y	Physical Education BS	
Bioengineering BS	y	Science Education BA BS	
Chemical Engineering BS	y	Social Studies Education BA BS	
Civil Engineering BS	y	School of Management	
Computer Engineering BSCE		Accounting BS	
Computer Science BS	y	Entrepreneurship and Emerging Enterprises BS	y
Electrical Engineering BS		General Accounting BS	
Environmental Engineering BS	y	Management BS	y
Mechanical Engineering BS		Marketing Management BS	
Systems and Information Science BS		Retail Management BS	y
College of Visual and Performing Arts		Supply Chain Management BS	
Art Video BFA		University College	
Communication and Rhetorical Studies BS	y	English Language Institute	y
Computer Art and Animation BFA		Knowledge Management BPS	
Computer Gaming Minor		Knowledge Management CRT	
continued in next column...		Social Science MSSc	

All of these departments have IL in their program outcomes.

We see where the library is teaching and, as importantly, where the library is not.

This chart allows us to identify gaps and opportunities for IL teaching that we can use in our planning.

What IL skills and dispositions are the libraries teaching?

This curriculum map illustrates how we are targeting the teaching we do across departments every semester.

Learning Outcomes targeted in library sessions during Spring 2019 (reporting current as of 4/1/2019)				
Department	Outcome 1: Embrace the value of information literacy as essential to a pursuit of lifelong learning	Outcome 2: Successfully navigate the information landscape by identifying information needs, locating, accessing, evaluating, and connecting information resources, and creating and managing information and research workflows in an ethical and sustainable manner	Outcome 3: Engage with the social, political, and economic contexts through which information is created and disseminated	Outcome 4: Recognize Syracuse University Libraries and its staff as integral to their creative and research practices
Advertising	x	x		
Art & Music Histories		x	x	x
Communication & Rhetorical Studies	x	x		x
Department of Public Health		x		x
Economics		x	x	x
English		x	x	x
English & Textual Studies		x	x	x
English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)	x	x		x
Entrepreneurship & Emerging Enterprises		x		
Geography	x	x		x
History		x	x	x
Information Management	x	x		
International Relations Program	x	x		
Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics		x		x
Management	x	x	x	x
Newspaper & Online Journalism	x	x		
Political Science	x	x		
Psychology		x	x	x
Public Affairs	x	x		x
Social Work		x	x	
Writing Program	x	x		x
Writing Studies, Rhetoric, and Composition	x	x	x	x

How might we use these data to improve our program?

By aligning curriculum maps from departments with the IL instruction that SUL provides, we can partner with departments to assess the shared competency, "Information Literacy and Technological Agility."

Geography BA

Geography has a learning outcome that aligns with IL. When all of their courses are entered in Tk20, we can align our instructional strategies accordingly.

As the Libraries track their instruction sessions, we can take steps to insure that we are teaching in courses that align with relevant departmental outcomes.

Course	Outcome 1: Embrace the value of information literacy as essential to a pursuit of lifelong learning	Outcome 2: Successfully navigate the information landscape by identifying information needs, locating, accessing, evaluating, and connecting information resources, and creating and managing information and research workflows in an ethical and sustainable manner	Outcome 3: Engage with the social, political, and economic contexts through which information is created and disseminated	Outcome 4: Recognize Syracuse University Libraries and its staff as integral to their creative and research practices
GEO108		x		x
GEO381	x	x		x
GEO383		x		x
GEO482		x		x