TO: Dr. Timothy Austin, Provost and Academic Vice President
FROM: Information Literacy Steering Committee
DATE: September 19, 2016
RE: Proposal to revise Duquesne’s definition of information literacy

The Information Literacy Steering Committee (Dr. David Carbonara and Ms. Diana Sasso, co-chairs; Bruce Beaver, Lori Marra, Christine O’Neil, Marcia Rapchak, Gary Shank, Jerry Stinnett, Melanie Turk) recommends that Duquesne adopt the current definition of information literacy adopted in January 2016 by the Association of College and Research Libraries:

Information literacy is the set of integrated abilities encompassing the reflective discovery of information, the understanding of how information is produced and valued, and the use of information in creating new knowledge and participating ethically in communities of learning.

This definition comes from ACRL’s Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education, which will supersede the Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education (http://www.ala.org/acrl/standards/informationliteracycompetency). The Framework “envisions information literacy as extending the arc of learning throughout students’ academic careers and as converging with other academic and social learning goals” and consequently offers “an expanded definition of information literacy that emphasizes dynamism, flexibility, individual growth, and community learning” (Association of College and Research Libraries http://www.ala.org/acrl/standards/ilframework p. 3.)

The emphases on using information to create new knowledge and on ethically participating in communities of learning fit well with the vision of Duquesne’s Core. Adopting this definition marks the first of step of Gumberg Library’s goals for adopting the Framework in its instruction program.

This definition would supersede Duquesne’s current definition of information literacy approved in 2013 (http://www.duq.edu/Documents/academic-affairs_/pdf/Info_Literacy_Definition.pdf). We would be glad to answer any questions or provide additional background information that would be helpful.

Approved

Dr. Timothy Austin Date
Provost and Academic Vice President

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