Information Literacy Objectives for the Department of History

At the end of a 4 year degree in History at the University of Windsor, a student will be able to:

- Determine the extent and nature of information needed
- Access information efficiently and effectively
- Evaluate information and its sources critically
- Integrate and use information to accomplish a specific purpose
- Understand cultural, ethical, social, legal and economic issues surrounding the use of information
- Understand cultural, ethical, social, legal and economic issues surrounding the production of information

Curriculum Overview

First year
- Understands physical layout of Leddy library
- Has a broad understanding of the types of resources housed in the Leddy Library (electronic and print)

Second year
- Understands the culture of the academe and scholarly research
- Can distinguish between types of sources in the publication cycle, particularly scholarly/non-scholarly and primary/secondary
- Understands specific sources useful for historical research – Encyclopedias, Historical Dictionaries, Biographical dictionaries, & Primary Sources

- Understands basic database structure
- Understands basic search techniques and strategies

- Able to draw information from various texts and synthesize it

- Able to cite sources correctly

- Understands concepts of intellectual freedom and intellectual property
- Understands that publications, scholarly or non-scholarly, come out of particular contexts which affect content

Third Year

- Able to define and frame appropriate and viable research questions
- Understands scope of specific sources useful for historical research – indexes and abstracts, catalogues, electronic journal collections

- Understands searching using database fields
- Understands the concept of controlled vocabularies and classification schemas, particularly as they apply to the discipline of history

- Able to evaluate sources found and revise his/her own search strategy in order to get best material for topic

- Understands purpose of citation and concepts of plagiarism, intellectual property, research ethics

- Understands scope and context of electronic resources such as Historical Abstracts, ejournals, digitization projects – and their implications for researchers and the preservation of the historical record

Fourth Year
- Able to use controlled vocabulary and knowledge of historiographic/theoretical discourse to find secondary texts from particular theoretical paradigms

- Able to trace ideas and track scholarly conversation using citation indexes

- Able to evaluate secondary sources to determine the theoretical paradigm it works within

- Able to integrate information gained from readings in theory with readings of primary source material in order to analyze historical events, conditions etc