

WHAT IS THE IMLS INFORMATION LITERACY PROJECT?

What is information literacy?

Information literacy is a set of skills that people need to find, understand, evaluate, and share information. You can use the resources on this site to plan information literacy programs and help community members build these critical skills.

Why has IMLS invested in a national effort to promote information literacy?

Recognizing information literacy needs across the country, the U.S. Congress and the White House, through the [Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022](#), directed the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to explore ways to improve information literacy within communities (pg. 142). This included creating a website and leading an Information Literacy Taskforce (Taskforce) to develop guidance, instructional materials, and national strategies to improve information literacy skills within communities.

Who are the members of the Information Literacy Taskforce?

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
- Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
- Institute of Museum and Library Services
- Library of Congress
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- National Institutes of Health
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- National Telecommunications and Information Administration
- Office of the Surgeon General
- Social Security Administration
- U.S. Department of Education
- U.S. Department of Justice
- U.S. Department of Treasury
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Why were these agencies selected?

The agencies represented on the Taskforce have comprehensive and robust information literacy programs and/or federal financial assistance such as grants available to communities across the country. Taskforce members support partnerships with grassroots organizations, academia, and community members to improve information literacy skills in communities. These critical skills

include the ability for community members to find, evaluate, and use information, as well as apply skillful judgment to make decisions as they address their daily needs.

Who is the intended audience for this effort?

Library and museum professionals are trusted educators in communities, and they have a deep understanding of community needs and priorities. As such, this effort focuses on training and technical assistance resources for professionals in libraries, museums, zoos, aquaria, botanical gardens, arboretums, nature and science centers, archives, and other community-serving organizations.

What research has contributed to the planning of this effort?

Under the guidance of the Taskforce, IMLS has undertaken a robust research effort to better understand the daily needs of museum and library professionals related to increasing information literacy in their communities. Five convenings of these professionals took place in 2023 and helped form the approach and content for this effort, including a meeting that sought feedback on messaging related to the information literacy project. This research, along with an extensive audit of existing literature and resources, informed the direction of the messaging and materials for professionals.

What issues are the focus of the information literacy effort?

The current focus of the website and supporting materials are financial, health, and digital literacy. These areas may expand in the future.

What is IMLS providing to its stakeholders to help support information literacy?

IMLS has developed a comprehensive website with resources and engagement ideas for professionals. A key feature of the website are toolkits for professionals that include lesson plans, community engagement materials and ideas, and suggestions for partnership outreach.

Where can I find curated information literacy resources?

Please visit www.InformationLiteracy.gov.

How often will you update informationliteracy.gov?

We plan to update the website quarterly.

How can I provide feedback on information literacy efforts and materials?

We welcome feedback from library and museum professionals and other community stakeholders as we work to best serve their needs. Please reach out at infolit@imls.gov with any questions or ideas.

Our organization has a small staff and limited resources. How can I improve information literacy in my community?

We recognize that many of our nation's museums and libraries are small with limited staff and volunteers. That's why we have worked to supply a comprehensive set of resources to help you meet your organization's needs. We also have included suggestions around outreach to potential partners who could be engaged as trainers in information literacy at the community level, freeing up valuable time for staff and volunteers.