



REVIEW

Measuring the impact of information literacy programs on student success: a review

Midiendo el impacto de los programas de alfabetización informacional en el éxito de los estudiantes: una revisión

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents a comprehensive overview of methodologies and approaches for assessing the impact of information literacy programs on student success in educational settings. Information literacy programs aim to equip students with essential skills to locate, evaluate, and effectively use information in academic and professional contexts. The abstract explores various dimensions of measuring the impact of these programs, including assessment of information literacy skills, academic performance, integration into curriculum, perceptions and self-efficacy, and employability and career readiness. Measuring the impact of information literacy programs on student success requires a multifaceted approach that considers various dimensions of student learning, academic performance, and professional development. By employing a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, educators and researchers can gain a comprehensive understanding of the effectiveness of information literacy interventions in preparing students for success in an information-rich world.

Keywords: Information Literacy Programs; Student Success, Assessment; Academic Performance; Curriculum Integration; Perceptions; Self-Efficacy; Employability; Career Readiness.

RESUMEN

Este artículo presenta una visión global de las metodologías y enfoques para evaluar el impacto de los programas de alfabetización informacional en el éxito de los estudiantes en contextos educativos. Los programas de alfabetización informacional tienen como objetivo dotar a los estudiantes de habilidades esenciales para localizar, evaluar y utilizar eficazmente la información en contextos académicos y profesionales. El resumen explora varias dimensiones de la medición del impacto de estos programas, incluyendo la evaluación de las habilidades de alfabetización informacional, el rendimiento académico, la integración en el plan de estudios, las percepciones y la autoeficacia, y la empleabilidad y la preparación profesional. Medir el impacto de los programas de alfabetización informacional en el éxito de los estudiantes requiere un enfoque multifacético que considere varias dimensiones del aprendizaje de los estudiantes, el rendimiento académico y el desarrollo profesional. Mediante el empleo de una combinación de métodos cuantitativos y cualitativos, los educadores y los investigadores pueden adquirir una comprensión global de la eficacia de las intervenciones de alfabetización informacional en la preparación de los estudiantes para el éxito en un mundo rico en información.

Palabras clave: Programas de Alfabetización Informacional; Éxito Estudiantil; Evaluación; Rendimiento Académico; Integración Curricular; Percepciones; Autoeficacia; Empleabilidad; Preparación Profesional.

INTRODUCTION

In an era characterized by an abundance of information and rapid technological advancements, the ability to effectively navigate, evaluate, and utilize information has become increasingly critical for academic and professional success. Information literacy programs serve as vital educational interventions aimed at equipping students with the skills and competencies necessary to thrive in this information-rich environment. However, assessing the impact of these programs on student success presents a multifaceted challenge that requires careful consideration of various factors and methodologies. Information literacy programs play a pivotal role in addressing the evolving information needs of students and preparing them to become lifelong learners and informed citizens. These programs go beyond traditional library instruction sessions, encompassing a broad range of educational initiatives designed to foster critical thinking, digital literacy, research skills, and ethical information use.⁽¹⁾ By empowering students to effectively identify, evaluate, and ethically use information from diverse sources, information literacy programs contribute to their academic achievement, intellectual growth, and professional success.

Assessing the impact of information literacy programs on student success presents several challenges due to the complexity of measuring learning outcomes in information literacy. Unlike traditional academic disciplines with clearly defined objectives and assessment methods, information literacy encompasses a wide range of cognitive, affective, and behavioral competencies that are often context-dependent and difficult to quantify.⁽²⁾ Moreover, the interdisciplinary nature of information literacy education requires collaboration among faculty, librarians, and other stakeholders to develop meaningful assessment strategies that align with institutional goals and priorities.

Measuring the impact of information literacy programs on student success involves examining multiple dimensions of learning, including changes in information literacy skills, academic performance, curriculum integration, perceptions, and employability. Assessment methods may include pre- and post-tests, surveys, rubrics, focus groups, interviews, and portfolio reviews to capture both quantitative and qualitative data on students' information literacy competencies and experience.⁽³⁾ Additionally, longitudinal studies and institutional data analysis can provide insights into the long-term effects of information literacy interventions on students' academic and professional trajectories.

Information literacy programs in educational institutions aim to equip students with the necessary skills to locate, evaluate, and effectively use information in various contexts. Assessing the impact of these programs on student success is crucial for evaluating their effectiveness in preparing students for academic and professional endeavors. This topic explores methodologies and approaches for measuring the impact of information literacy programs on student success.

DEVELOPMENT

Significance of Information Literacy Programs

In today's digital age, where information is abundant and readily accessible, the ability to effectively navigate, evaluate, and utilize information has become indispensable. Information literacy programs play a pivotal role in equipping individuals with the skills and competencies necessary to thrive in this information-rich environment. This lengthy note explores the profound significance of information literacy programs, highlighting their importance in fostering critical thinking, empowering individuals, promoting lifelong learning, and contributing to societal advancement.⁽⁴⁾

Fostering Critical Thinking: information literacy programs are essential for fostering critical thinking skills among individuals. In a world inundated with information, the ability to critically evaluate sources, discern credible information from misinformation, and synthesize diverse perspectives is crucial. By equipping individuals with the tools and techniques needed to analyze and evaluate information critically, information literacy programs enable them to make informed decisions, solve problems effectively, and communicate ideas persuasively.⁽⁵⁾

Empowering Individuals: information literacy programs empower individuals to become active participants in their own learning and decision-making processes. By providing individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to locate, evaluate, and use information effectively, these programs promote self-reliance, autonomy, and intellectual empowerment. Whether in academic, professional, or personal contexts, individuals who possess strong information literacy skills are better equipped to navigate the complexities of the information landscape and achieve their goals.⁽⁵⁾

Promoting Lifelong Learning: lifelong learning is essential for personal growth, professional development, and adaptability in an ever-changing world. Information literacy programs instill a lifelong learning mindset by cultivating curiosity, intellectual curiosity, and a desire for continuous self-improvement. By teaching individuals how to learn effectively, evaluate information critically, and adapt to new information technologies, these programs promote a culture of lifelong learning that extends far beyond formal educational settings.⁽⁶⁾

Contributing to Societal Advancement: information literacy programs play a crucial role in advancing society

by fostering an informed and engaged citizenry. In democratic societies, informed citizens are essential for the functioning of democracy, as they are better equipped to participate in civic life, make informed decisions, and hold public officials accountable. By promoting information literacy skills such as media literacy, digital citizenship, and information ethics, these programs contribute to the creation of a more informed, responsible, and democratic society.⁽⁶⁾

Key Components of Information Literacy Programs

Information literacy programs are comprehensive educational initiatives designed to equip individuals with the skills and competencies necessary to effectively navigate, evaluate, and utilize information in various contexts. These programs encompass a range of components aimed at developing learners' information literacy skills. This lengthy note explores the key components of information literacy programs, highlighting their significance and role in fostering critical thinking, research proficiency, digital literacy, and lifelong learning.

Curriculum Integration: one of the key components of information literacy programs is curriculum integration, which involves embedding information literacy instruction into academic curricula across disciplines. By integrating information literacy instruction into courses and assignments, educators ensure that students develop these essential skills in conjunction with subject-specific content. Curriculum integration helps students see the relevance of information literacy skills to their academic pursuits and promotes the transfer of these skills to real-world contexts.⁽⁷⁾

Skill Development: information literacy programs focus on the development of critical thinking, research, evaluation, and citation skills necessary for navigating information resources and engaging in scholarly inquiry. These programs provide students with opportunities to practice information seeking, evaluation, and synthesis in a variety of contexts, including academic research projects, problem-based learning activities, and collaborative projects. Skill development activities may include workshops, tutorials, research assignments, and hands-on exploration of information resources.

Digital Literacy: in today's digital age, digital literacy skills are essential for effectively accessing, evaluating, and using information. Information literacy programs emphasize digital literacy by teaching students how to use digital tools, access online databases, evaluate web sources, and understand issues related to privacy, copyright, and information ethics. Digital literacy instruction helps students become proficient users of technology and empowers them to navigate the digital landscape responsibly.

Active Learning: active learning is a cornerstone of information literacy programs, as it engages students in hands-on exploration and application of information literacy concepts. Active learning strategies, such as problem-based learning, inquiry-based learning, and collaborative projects, encourage students to take an active role in their learning process and apply information literacy skills in authentic contexts. By promoting active learning, information literacy programs foster deeper engagement, critical thinking, and knowledge retention among students.⁽⁷⁾

Assessment of Information Literacy Skills

Assessing information literacy skills is integral to understanding students' proficiency in navigating the complex information landscape and equipping them with the competencies necessary for academic success and lifelong learning. This lengthy note explores the significance of assessing information literacy skills, the various assessment methods and tools available, and the role of assessment in enhancing learning outcomes and empowering students.

Significance of Assessing Information Literacy Skills:

Assessing information literacy skills is crucial for several reasons. Firstly, it helps educators understand students' current level of proficiency and identify areas for improvement. By assessing information literacy skills, educators can tailor instruction to address students' specific needs and ensure that learning objectives are effectively met. Secondly, assessment provides students with valuable feedback on their information literacy abilities, empowering them to reflect on their strengths and weaknesses and take ownership of their learning. Additionally, assessing information literacy skills allows institutions to evaluate the effectiveness of their information literacy programs and make data-driven decisions to enhance learning outcomes.⁽⁸⁾

Assessment Methods and Tools:

A variety of assessment methods and tools can be used to evaluate students' information literacy skills. These include:

Performance-Based Assessments: performance-based assessments require students to demonstrate their information literacy skills in real-world contexts, such as conducting research, evaluating sources, and synthesizing information. Examples of performance-based assessments include research papers, annotated bibliographies, and multimedia presentations.

Rubrics: rubrics provide a structured framework for assessing students' information literacy skills based on predefined criteria. Rubrics can be used to evaluate various aspects of information literacy, such as search strategies, source evaluation, and citation practices. They provide clear expectations for students and facilitate consistent and objective assessment by instructors.

Standardized Tests: standardized tests, such as the Information Literacy Test developed by the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL), measure students' information literacy skills using standardized questions and scoring criteria. While standardized tests provide a quantitative measure of information literacy proficiency, they may not capture the full range of students' abilities or contextual factors influencing their performance.

Surveys and Self-Assessments: surveys and self-assessments allow students to reflect on their information literacy skills and attitudes. Surveys can provide valuable insights into students' perceptions of their abilities, their information-seeking behaviors, and their experiences with information literacy instruction. Self-assessments can help students identify areas for improvement and set goals for further development.

Role of Assessment in Enhancing Learning Outcomes:

Assessment plays a crucial role in enhancing learning outcomes by providing feedback to students, informing instructional practices, and promoting reflection and metacognition. When students receive feedback on their information literacy skills, they gain insight into their strengths and weaknesses and are better able to identify areas for improvement. This feedback can motivate students to engage in self-directed learning and seek out additional resources and support. Moreover, assessment data can inform instructional practices by identifying areas where additional instruction or support is needed and guiding the development of targeted interventions. By promoting reflection and meta cognition, assessment encourages students to think critically about their learning process, set goals for improvement, and monitor their progress over time.⁽⁹⁾

Academic Performance and Achievement:

Information literacy instruction programs have emerged as integral components of educational initiatives aimed at equipping students with essential skills and competencies for academic success and lifelong learning. This lengthy note delves into the significance of information literacy instruction programs in enhancing academic performance and achievement, exploring how these programs contribute to critical thinking, research proficiency, information fluency, and overall student success.

Fostering Critical Thinking: information literacy instruction programs play a vital role in fostering critical thinking skills among students. By teaching students how to evaluate information critically, discern credible sources, and analyze data effectively, these programs empower students to approach academic assignments and research projects with a discerning eye. Critical thinking skills enable students to question assumptions, evaluate evidence, and construct well-reasoned arguments, ultimately leading to higher-quality academic work and improved academic performance.⁽¹⁰⁾

Developing Research Proficiency: one of the primary objectives of information literacy instruction programs is to develop students' research proficiency. These programs teach students how to formulate research questions, develop search strategies, and locate relevant sources using library databases, online catalogs, and other information resources. By equipping students with the skills and techniques necessary for conducting effective research, information literacy instruction programs enable students to produce well-informed, evidence-based research papers, projects, and presentations, thereby enhancing their academic performance.

Promoting Information Fluency: information literacy instruction programs promote information fluency among students by teaching them how to navigate the complexities of the information landscape effectively. Students learn how to evaluate the credibility, relevance, and authority of information sources, distinguish between primary and secondary sources, and synthesize information from multiple sources to support their arguments. Information fluency enables students to engage critically with course materials, integrate diverse perspectives into their work, and demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of complex topics, thereby contributing to their academic success.⁽¹¹⁾

Empowering Students for Lifelong Learning: beyond enhancing academic performance, information literacy instruction programs empower students for lifelong learning. By instilling a mindset of inquiry, curiosity, and self-directed learning, these programs equip students with the skills and attitudes necessary to navigate the information-rich environments they will encounter throughout their lives. Students learn how to adapt to new information technologies, critically evaluate information in various formats, and continue their education beyond the classroom, fostering a commitment to lifelong learning that extends beyond their academic careers.

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Perceptions and Self-Efficacy

In the realm of education, perceptions and self-efficacy play crucial roles in determining the effectiveness and

outcomes of instructional programs. When it comes to information literacy instruction programs, understanding students' perceptions of the program and their self-efficacy in information literacy skills is essential for designing and implementing interventions that meet their needs. This note explores the significance of perceptions and self-efficacy in information literacy instruction programs, examining their impact on learning outcomes and suggesting strategies for enhancing both.

Perceptions of Information Literacy Instruction Programs

Students' perceptions of information literacy instruction programs can significantly influence their engagement, motivation, and learning outcomes. Positive perceptions, such as viewing the program as relevant, engaging, and beneficial, are associated with greater enthusiasm for learning and higher levels of engagement with program activities. Conversely, negative perceptions, such as perceiving the program as boring, irrelevant, or ineffective, can lead to disengagement, apathy, and decreased motivation to learn.⁽¹³⁾ Therefore, it is essential for educators and instructional designers to consider students' perceptions when designing and implementing information literacy instruction programs.

Self-Efficacy in Information Literacy Skills

Self-efficacy refers to an individual's belief in their ability to successfully perform a task or achieve a specific goal. In the context of information literacy instruction programs, self-efficacy plays a crucial role in determining students' willingness to engage in information-seeking behaviors, their confidence in their ability to locate and evaluate information effectively, and their persistence in overcoming challenges encountered during the research process.⁽¹⁴⁾ Students with high levels of self-efficacy in information literacy skills are more likely to approach research tasks with confidence, persistence, and adaptability, leading to improved learning outcomes and academic success.

Enhancing Perceptions and Self-Efficacy

Several strategies can be employed to enhance students' perceptions of information literacy instruction programs and their self-efficacy in information literacy skills:

Relevance and Authenticity: design instruction that is relevant to students' academic goals, interests, and real-world contexts. Incorporate authentic tasks and examples that demonstrate the practical applications of information literacy skills in academic and professional settings.

Active Learning: engage students in active learning experiences that promote hands-on exploration, collaboration, and problem-solving. Provide opportunities for students to apply information literacy skills in authentic research projects, case studies, and simulations.

Feedback and Support: provide timely and constructive feedback to students on their information literacy skills, research process, and academic work. Offer individualized support and guidance to students as they navigate the complexities of the information landscape.

Role Modeling: model information literacy behaviors and attitudes through your own actions as an educator or librarian. Demonstrate effective information-seeking strategies, critical evaluation of sources, and ethical use of information in your interactions with students.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, measuring the impact of information literacy programs on student success is essential for evaluating the effectiveness of these initiatives and understanding their contribution to educational outcomes. Through comprehensive assessment methods and tools, educators can gain insights into students' information literacy skills, critical thinking abilities, and academic achievements. The findings of such assessments not only provide valuable feedback to educators and program developers but also empower students to reflect on their learning progress and take ownership of their academic journey.

Moreover, assessing the impact of information literacy programs allows institutions to make data-driven decisions regarding resource allocation, curriculum development, and instructional practices. By identifying areas for improvement and recognizing successful strategies, institutions can enhance the quality and effectiveness of their information literacy initiatives, ultimately benefiting students and the broader learning community.

It is important to acknowledge the multifaceted nature of student success, which extends beyond academic performance to encompass critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and lifelong learning competencies. Information literacy programs play a pivotal role in nurturing these skills and preparing students for success in academia, the workplace, and beyond.

As educators continue to refine and innovate their information literacy programs, ongoing assessment and evaluation remain critical components of the process. By fostering a culture of continuous improvement and data-driven decision-making, institutions can maximize the impact of their information literacy initiatives and

empower students to thrive in an increasingly complex and information-rich world.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

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