Thinking Critically about Information: What is information literacy?

Leah Cordova, MLIS
Meghan Wanucha, MLIS
Today’s Objectives

- Explore concept of Information Literacy (IL)
- Build shared definition of IL
What does “information literacy” mean to you?
Why are....

YOU here?

WE here?
1. Background

Information literacy history and trends
Tracking Information Literacy

1976
Library Conference
“conventional literacy
no longer enough”

1974
Zurkowski
Workplace focus

1989
ALA Report
Coalition of schools and
colleges to integrate IL

2000
ACRL
IL Competency Standards
for Higher Education

2016
ACRL
Framework for IL for
Higher Education
2. Define

Building a shared definition of IL
Think/Pair/Share

Split into groups of 2-3

What IS information literacy?
What is NOT information literacy?

Some things to consider:
- Behaviors
- Dispositions
- Habits of mind
“Students’ ability to access and analyze research material mainly from different sources...It could be the internet. It could be databases that are in the library or not...” (Business faculty member) - Bury, 2016

“Well, I think what comes to mind is the ability to work with academic materials, academic literature...That’s what I focus on when I talk about IL. We consider it part of our critical skills package. Critical in a broad sense, right?” (Social Sciences faculty member) - Bury, 2016
ACRL Framework
Information Literacy for Higher Education
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.

-ACRL Framework, 2016
Things to consider

- Who is responsible for building IL in ECU students?
- How do I foster IL in my classroom?
- What threshold concepts exist in my discipline? What bottlenecks do my students experience in their learning?
Disciplinary approaches to IL

- How did you learn what your discipline values when it comes to information?
- How are your students learning that value system or culture?
- How will knowledge of your discipline help your students think critically about issues after they graduate? In their everyday life?
What does “information literacy” mean to you?
THANK YOU!

Any questions?

Leah Cordova | cordovaa15@ecu.edu
Meghan Wanucha | wanucham16@ecu.edu