

Information literacy, as defined by various sources including the American Library Association and the Prague Declaration, is the ability to identify information needs, locate and evaluate sources, and use information effectively and ethically. This encompasses skills like understanding information organization, using research techniques, and applying information to create knowledge. The importance of information literacy stems from its role in problem-solving, decision-making, and lifelong learning. In today's information-rich environment, it's crucial for independent learning, bridging the information gap, and fostering critical thinking for economic and cultural progress. Information literacy also addresses copyright and authorship concerns. Key dimensions include media literacy (accessing, analyzing, and creating media), network literacy (computer and network skills), digital literacy (using digital devices), scientific literacy (understanding scientific concepts), and visual literacy (interpreting visual information). Ultimately, information literacy empowers individuals and enables participation in society.