**ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF AFRICA**



JUDITH THOMAS LIBRARY

INFORMATION LITERACY CURRICULUM



**January 2023**

**Introduction**

There is significant change in the way the world works today. Driven by the rapid technological growth, information and knowledge have become organs around which economic, social, political and cultural lives revolve. Emerging from this understanding is what is being referred to as *information or knowledge societies*. It is not as easy as A B C or D to survive in this information or knowledge societies and therefore a set of competencies (knowledge, skills, and attitudes) have to be acquired for obtaining, understanding, adapting, generating, storing, and presenting information for problem analysis and decision –making. These skills are simply known as *information literacy skills* which are acquired through an effective information literacy programme. This will enable people to know why they need information, when they need it and what measures to take in accessing and using information effectively to solve problems and make decisions.

It is in this context that Judith Thomas library has developed an Information literacy Curriculum which aims at providing students with the necessary skills and knowledge needed to effectively identify, find, evaluate and ethically use information to support academic excellence and lifelong learning. It will also enable the students to become producers of information in their own right, thus contributing to information and imparting knowledge to the society.

**Definition of Information Literacy**

Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) defines Information Literacy as the ability to identify what information is needed, understand how the information is organized, identify the best sources of information for a given need, locate those sources, evaluate the sources critically, and share that information. It is the knowledge of commonly used research techniques.

**Mission of the Information literacy Program**

The mission of the Adventist University of Africa information literacy curriculum is to give the students guidance in developing life-long skills in using library information resources ethically and legally.

**Objectives**

1. To familiarize students with the library facility, resources and services.
2. To acquaint students with basic database searching techniques.
3. To introduce students to issues of academic integrity.

**Learning Outcomes of the University Information Literacy Program**

1. Locate information resources more timely and effectively.
2. Know where to go for assistance from the library staff.
3. Log on to library computers and search the library’s website.
4. Use the Online Public Access Catalog effectively.
5. Understand the basics of database searching.
6. Recognize issues of academic integrity.

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| **Module Level** | **Module Title** | **Content** |
| 1 | *Introduction to the Library Layout* | **Familiarize with the sections of the Library*** Circulation Desk services
* General Location: the shelves containing books for general use and regular borrowing
* Reference Section: Containing books for in-house use only (not for borrowing)
* Periodicals section
 |
| 2 | *Library Website and OPAC* | o Accessing the Library Management System (KOHA) O Basics of how to search the catalog using access points (call numbers, author, subject, title, etc.)o Shelving locationo Library Website and other linkso Information on student borrowing status *Activity: Library Scavenger hunt:* *students must find answers to questions by both physically walking around the library and logging on to the library’s website* |
| 3 | *Accessing* AUA *Electronic Resources* (online journals, articles and databases) | o Databases’ access o Identifying key concepts and descriptors o Differentiate among keywords, subject headings o Databases (JSTOR, EBSCOHost, Emerald, etc)o Citation*Activity: Answer questions designed to compare and contrast database student’s choose* |
| 4 | *Academic Integrity* | o Introduction to copyright o Plagiarism detection (turnitin.com)o Introduction to citationso Ethical dilemma |

**Each Module is allocated 40 minutes**

**Information Literacy Standards**

The Adventist University of Africa Library information literacy curriculum is a standards-based curriculum drawing from the American Library Association set of standards for information literacy. These standards provide a framework for assessing the information literate student.

The University Library information literacy skills program is specific to the needs of AUA students. As students progress into research classes, learning outcomes consistent with the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education, will specifically introduce students to Standards 3, 4 and 5.

### Standard One

The information literate student determines the nature and extent of the information needed.

### Standard Two

The information literate student accesses needed information effectively and efficiently.

### Standard Three

The information literate student evaluates information and its sources critically and incorporates selected information into his or her knowledge base and value system.

### Standard Four

The information literate student, individually or as a member of a group, uses information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose.

### Standard Five

The information literate student understands many of the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information and accesses and uses information ethically and legally.

**Assessment**

Assessment will include a post test administered after every library session for the students and a final examination at the end of every semester.