Information Fluency for Michener Institute

Scholarship is a conversation to which you should be prepared to contribute

Healthcare professionals engage in discourse with new insights and discoveries occurring over time as a result of varied perspectives and interpretations.

Research is an iterative process of inquiry

Research is iterative and depends upon asking increasingly complex or new questions whose answers in turn develop additional questions or lines of inquiry in any field.

Information creation and dissemination are part of the research process

Healthcare professionals recognize the traditional and emerging processes of information creation and dissemination in a particular field.

Information has value – it is never "free"

Healthcare professionals understand the diverse values of information in an environment where "free" information and related services are plentiful – and where the concept of intellectual property may be first encountered through rules of citation or warnings about plagiarism and copyright law.

Authority is constructed and contextual

Authority can be defined in different ways – such as subject expertise (e.g., scholarship), societal position (e.g., public office or title), or special experience (e.g., participating in a historic event).

Information searching is like strategic exploration

Searching for information is often nonlinear and iterative, requiring the evaluation of a range of information sources and the mental flexibility to pursue alternate avenues as new understanding develops. Encompassing inquiry, discovery, and serendipity, searching identifies both possible relevant sources as well as the means to access those sources. Healthcare professionals:

- Utilize divergent (e.g., brainstorming) and convergent (e.g., selecting the best source) thinking when searching;
- Match information needs and search strategies to appropriate search tools;
- Design and refine needs and search strategies as necessary, based on search results;
- Understand how information systems (i.e., collections of recorded information) are organized in order to access relevant information;
- Use different types of searching language (e.g., controlled vocabulary, keywords, natural language) appropriately;
- Manage searching processes and results effectively;
- Recognize the value of browsing and other serendipitous methods of information gathering;
- Persist in the face of search challenges, and know when they have enough information to complete the information task.