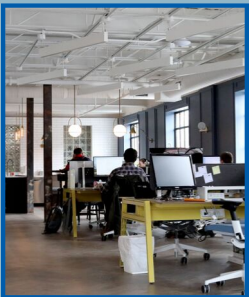# INFORMATION LITERACY

Having the ability to express, connect with and understand knowledge and communication through comprehensive and innovative formats; the ability to distinguish between credible and non-credible sources; recognizing when information is needed to further oneself, an objective or a project.

Fifty-four percent of U.S. adults have gone online to look for job information. Forty-five percent have applied for a job online.

Job-seeking Americans are just as likely to have turned to the Internet during their most recent employment search as to their networks.

Nearly 30% of Americans have used a smartphone as part of a job search, and half of those individuals used their smartphones to complete job applications.

✓ Senior citizens are disproportionately affected by Internet crime, and our current laws do not protect them. As their use of the Internet increases, so do their chances of falling victim to online scams.

✓ No regulating body monitors the reliability of what is on the Internet.

✓ Nearly 29% of students say that Google, Yahoo, and other major search engines were the most important information source for their last research assignment.

✓ One of the first skills in developing information literacy is being able to tell the difference between fact and opinion.

Research shows that increased access to sophisticated technological social tools and increased connectivity via smart phones, laptops, and other handheld devices is changing the behavior of several generations. Frequently cited generational differences are now blurring.

✓ Many teachers report that their students are better finders of information because of the accessibility of online resources, while other studies indicate that the overall presence of library (information literacy) instruction is the determining factor between higher and lower grade point averages in college students.

In a study that asked college students what the most difficult part of the research process is, more than 60% noted trouble distinguishing between relevant and non-relevant resources.

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About PA Forward

Pennsylvania's libraries serve as models of cost-effective service. Libraries stretch the public's resources through book sharing, computers, online resources, facilities and expertise.

PA Forward | Pennsylvania Libraries, an initiative of the Pennsylvania Library Association, aims to make sure libraries have what they need to help people reach their greatest potential and meet the demands of a constantly changing world. The program establishes new public-private partnerships and builds on the belief that libraries are uniquely positioned to help Pennsylvanians improve their command of five types of literacy essential to greater success in all vital roles of life, from citizens, students, and parents to employers, employees, and consumers.

PA Forward promotes and benefits all libraries by demonstrating that literacy is power and how libraries provide the fuel to power Pennsylvania.

For more information about the Pennsylvania Library Association and PA Forward, visit www.palibraries.org or call 717-766-7663. For the latest information, like the Association's Facebook pages as Facebook/PALibraries and Facebook/PA Forward. You can also follow on Twitter at @PALibraryAssoc and @PAForward5.

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