Library Laboratory for PC 132 Thermodynamics and Waves

> Debbie Chaves, Ph.D. dchaves@wlu.ca X 3417

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Outline

- Scientific literacy and information literacy
- · Research on Information seeking of undergraduates
- Search Strategy
- Finding Information Databases
- Using Library Resources

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Scientific Literacy vs. Information Literacy

- What is scientific literacy?
- · Who will define it?
- Who will measure it?
- What is information literacy?
- How do we use information literacy tools?

LAURIER Library 🥾 Scientific Literacy

The Two Cultures and a Second Look by C.P. Snow (Cambridge University Press, 1959)

"A good many times I have been present at gatherings of people who, by the standards of the traditional culture, are thought highly educated and who have with considerable gusto been expressing their incredulity at the illiteracy of scientists. Once or twice I have been provoked and have asked the company how many of them could describe the Second Law of Thermodynamics. The response was cold: it was also negative. Yet I was asking something which is about the scientific equivalent of: Have you read a work of Shakespeare's?" pp. 14-15

"Yet I have regretted that I used as my test question about scientific literacy, What do you know of the Second Law of Thermodynamics? It is, in fact, a good question. Many physical scientist would agree that it is perhaps the most pointed question. This law is one of the greatest depth and generality: it has its own sombre beauty: like all scientific laws, it evokes reference.....Nevertheless I wish I had chosen a different example...branch of science at present goes by the name of molecular biology." pg.71-73

LAURIER Library Scientific Literacy

Entropy

- 2nd Law states that there increasing entropy in an isolated system over time
- Information Entropy
 - Developed by Claude Shannon in 1948
 - Quantifies the information that can be carried in message

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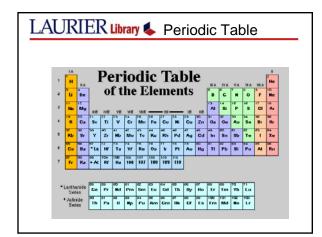
Information Literacy

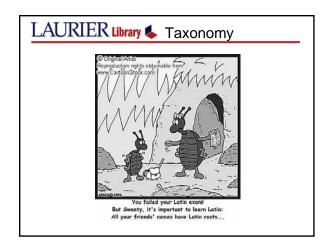
• The American Library Association's (ALA) Presidential Committee on Information Literacy, Final Report states that, "To be information literate, a person must be able to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information" (1989).

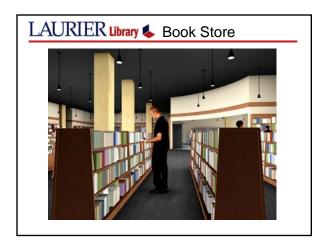
Miscellaneous Categorization: Information and Books

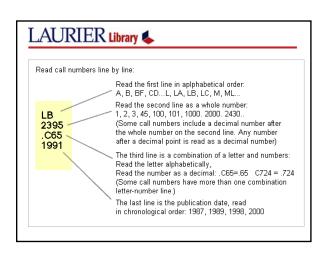
- How do you organize a grocery store?
- How do you organize your groceries when you bring them home?
- How do you organize your photographs?
- How do you organize a book store?
- How do you organize a library?



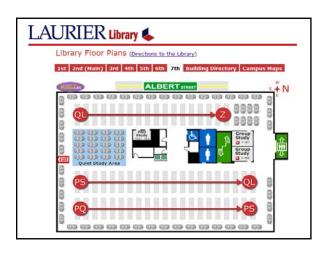


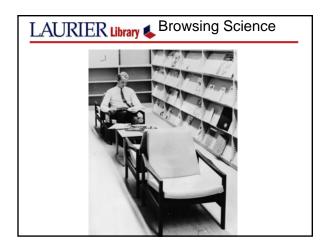






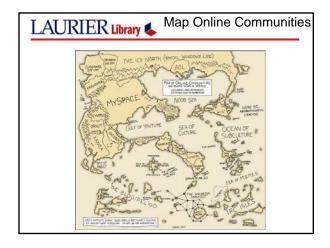






LAURIER Library & Browsing Science

- Science Q1 .S35
- Nature Q1 .N2
- American Scientist Q1 .A54
- Scientific American only online
- New Scientist:
 - http://www.newscientist.com/home.ns
- Discover: http://discovermagazine.com/
- Science News Q1 .S76
- Popular Science: http://www.popsci.com/popsci/
- The discovery channel:
 - http://www.discovery.ca/discoveryca/index.html



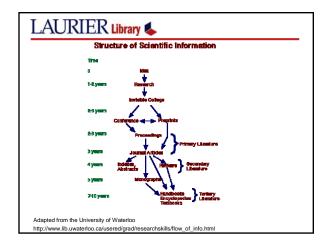


Information Seeking Observations

- When asking for information, we seek the easiest route possible
- · We form habits
- Satisfying
- We are good at assessing resources of credibility when we have experience

LAURIER Library Search Strategy

- Define the topic: know what you are looking for
- 2. Select information resources
- 3. Decide on words or phrases to describe individual concepts
- 4. Execute the search
- 5. Evaluate your results
- 6. Refine your search as necessary







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Citation Styles in Science

- American Chemical Society (ACS)
- American Institute of Physics (AIP)
- American Mathematical Society (AMS)
- CSE/CBE Council of Science Editors formerly Council of Biology Editors – Citation-Sequence and Citation-Year

Library Workshops in Library Instruction Room L314

- Books, books, books! Jan. 23 @ 10:30 am, Feb. 12 @ 10:00 am, Mar. 12 @ 2:30 pm
- Journal Literature Search Jan. 23 @ 11:30 am, Feb. 12 @11:00 am, March 12 @1:30 pm
- RefWorks Jan. 22 @ 1:00 pm, Feb. 12
 @ 1:00 pm, Mar. 12 @ 11:30 am.

