

New ARLIS/NA Online Publication

I am pleased to announce the release of a new ARLIS/NA Online Publication, ***Information Competencies for Students in Design Disciplines***, for the first time, compiles a list of core information literacy skills for students. Divided into basic, intermediate, and advanced skills in each design discipline, this set of competencies is an invaluable aid to librarians as they strive to define and delimit information literacy skills for students in design disciplines. These competencies are intended to facilitate a systematic means of integrating information literacy skills into the core curriculum of design students, as well as to open lines of communication with faculty as to how competencies can be integrated into specific course goals.

The authors (Jeanne Brown, Jane Carlin, Edith Crowe, Maya Gervits, Susan Lewis, Alan Michelson, Barbara Opar, and Jennifer Parker) developed *Information Competencies for Students in Design Disciplines* with previously established information literacy standards at its foundation. The ACRL *Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education* as well as specific standards in other disciplines such as: *Information Literacy Standards for Science and Engineering/Technology* were consulted in the creation of these standards.

ARLIS/NA is pleased to be able to offer this new Online Publication free of charge to ARLIS/NA members as well as to other interested parties. The publication can be accessed from the ARLIS Website at:

<http://www.arlisna.org/resources/onlinepubs/designcompetencies.pdf>

or simply select "**Online Publications**" from the "**Resources**" tab at the ARLIS Website (<http://www.arlisna.org/>).

The Competencies

These newly formed competencies in the design disciplines (including architecture, architecture history, art history, studio art, landscape architecture, interior design, fashion, and planning) detail general skills for each discipline as well as discipline-specific competencies dealing with core reference sources as well as information types.

Example from ***Information Competencies for Students in Design Disciplines***:

B. Basic skills for architecture students

Be able to:

- Use the *Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals* to locate articles on discipline-specific topic,

- Use call numbers representing the major fields that are included in architecture studies: architecture (NA), landscape architecture (SB), planning (HT), construction (TH), and interior design (NK) to browse,
- Find images using a variety of sources (library print sources, internet, licensed databases such as *ARTstor*)
 - Illustrating fundamentals of visual perception and design.
 - To incorporate into a discipline-specific product.
 - To group into study sets.
- Find materials on specific buildings and architects,
- Identify and retrieve information on precedents,
- Use sources like the *Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects* to locate additional information such as the name of the architect or style when only the building name has been provided,
- Identify appropriate campus sources (library and non-library) for architecture information on the locale or campus buildings,
- Select terminology resulting in an effective database search, using discipline-specific vocabulary,
- Apply copyright guidelines to use of images in paper and web assignments.

Full Credits

The authors of these competencies are librarians from a variety of design disciplines that have been working since early 2005 to develop a fluid set of competencies to which updates, amendments, and revisions can easily be added.

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