The Importance of Information Literacy Skills for Schools of Health Sciences in Africa

Overview
- Introduction
- Objectives
- Course Title: Information Literacy Skills and Competencies
- Course Content
  - Modules

Course Outline

- **Information sources**
- **Computer Fundamentals**
- **Internet and its uses**
- **Searching tools**
- **Searching techniques**
- **Intellectual property rights**
- **Evaluating and managing information resources**

Information sources
- Print and electronic books
- Periodicals and e-journals
- Indexes and abstracts
- Bibliographies
- Reference sources
- CD-ROMs
- Databases
- Internet

Computer Fundamentals
- Introduction to computers
- Brief history of the computer
- Parts of the computer and their functions
- Hardware and software
- Computer accessories and peripherals
- Uses of the computer
- Examples of computer software programs

Internet/World Wide Web
- Basic Internet Terminologies

- What is the Internet?
    - Network of computer Networks
    - Telecommunications
    - Protocols
    - Uses

- Information Networks
    - Libraries
    - Research Centers
    -
- Internet Protocols and Uses
    - Email
    - TCP/IP
    - FTP
    - HTML
    - HTTP
    - TELNET

Uses of the Internet
- Electronic Mail
- File Transfer Protocol
- Information Resources- electronic databases, journals, books among others
- Email Discussion Forums/Listservs
- Multimedia
- News Services

Sources of Internet Information
- Academic institutions

- Government agencies

- Publishers of information

- Professional organizations

Searching tools
- Search engines

- Search directories
- Subject gateways
- Portals
- Databases
- Digital archives
- Institutional repositories

Searching Techniques
- What is a database?

An organized collection of files
  - Fields
  - Records
  - Databases
  –
  - **Types of Databases**
    - Bibliographic databases (e.g., MEDLINE, African Index Medicus)
    - Full-text Databases (e.g., TDR databases)
    - Numeric Databases (e.g., statistical information)
    - Image Databases (e.g., Google image database

Database Searching Techniques

Basic Search Concepts
- Access Points
  - Known item
  - Unknown item

Keyword Searching
  - Truncation
  - Limiting or Positional
  - Searching shortcuts
  - Wild Cat Characters

Boolean Operators
- Three basic operators:
  - AND
  - OR
  - NOT

Other Operators

Intellectual Property Rights
- Copyright issues

- Fair use

- Plagiarism

Evaluating and Managing Information Resources
- Managing information resources
  - Bookmarks
  - Bibliographic management tools
  - Citation styles

- Evaluating electronic resources
  - Evaluation criteria

Criteria for Evaluating the Quality of Internet Resources

- Is the information:
  - Accurate
  - Factual
  - Comprehensive
  - Referenced
  - Disguised advertising

- Does the author/producer of the site or document have:
  - Qualifications
  - Credentials
  - Accountability
  - Conflicts of interest
  - Sponsorship
- Is the purpose of the Information to:
  - Explain
  - Inform
  - Persuade

- Currency
  - When was the site last updated
  - Are the materials/information on the site current and appropriate

- Does the site have good:
  - Organization
  - Style
  - Links
  - Navigation
  - Clarity

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