The Health Sciences Library (HSL) oversees the Information Literacy curriculum for the School of Medicine. This curriculum is guided by competency statements from two professional bodies: CanMEDS (Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada) and Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education (American Library Association). It is also aligned to the International Medical Informatics Association recommendation on medical informatics competencies.

Information literacy encompasses the critical thinking skills required for efficient and effective retrieval, evaluation, management, and ethical use of information in clinical and research contexts. *It is an essential component of problem-based, self-directed learning.* A strong basis in information literacy lays the foundation for Medical Decision Making and supports following the CanMED roles: Medical Expert, Communicator, Manager (Leader), Health Advocate, Scholar and Professional.

**Information Literacy Competencies and Assessment**

Information literacy skills are assessed along a continuum. Differing degrees of competence are expected as you progress through medical school and residency. Certain skills are necessary for success in PBL during pre-clerkship while more advanced information skills will be acquired only as you gain clinical and research exposure. A document outlining degrees of competence for various stages (junior student, senior student etc) can be found on the Resource for Medicine webpage.

By the end of medical school you should be able to:

1) Determine the nature and extent of the information you need (e.g. recognize a background versus foreground question, formulate a searchable question using PICO)
2) Access information effectively and efficiently using a variety of resources (e.g. point of care tools, databases, sources for guidelines, policy papers and statistics)
3) Critically evaluate information and incorporate this into your knowledge base and value system (CRAAP test, critical appraisal of articles)
4) Use information for a specific purpose (e.g. article publication, patient teaching)
5) Understand the economic, legal, and societal issues surrounding the use of information (copyright, plagiarism)

**Curriculum Delivery**

Students in our program come from a various backgrounds and possess different learning needs. To ensure that we meet your needs we approach instruction in several ways.

- Large group classes (lecture-style)
- Hands-on computer instruction
- Ad hoc teaching sessions for your pro comp or tutorial group upon your request
- Individual consultations
- Online tutorials
- Self-assessment tools

Andrea McLellan                  August, 2014
**Resources**

McMaster Libraries maintains robust collections of books, journals, and databases. Popular resources for medicine are identified on the Medicine webpage: [http://hsl.mcmaster.libguides.com/medicine](http://hsl.mcmaster.libguides.com/medicine), plus we have a large print collection of medical books that can be located by searching our catalogue. Please contact either Andrea or Jane if you wish to recommend titles for purchase. The Library licenses the following specialized software that may be of interest to you: RefWorks for citation management and SPSS for statistics.

**Facilities and Equipment**

As a student in the Faculty of Health Sciences you may book study rooms up to 1 week in advance. Several of our study rooms are being refurbished with large displays, and we currently have one that is equipped with a Mondo pad. Laptops, projectors, and a variety of equipment may be borrowed from the Circulation desk. Please refer to the website for full information on our policies, and remember to bring your student card when borrowing or booking.

**Library Locations : Hamilton, Niagara, and Waterloo**

The Library operates from three locations: Hamilton, Niagara, and Waterloo. The Hamilton site is freely accessible to the public and is located in area 2B (purple section) of the Health Sciences Centre. Our Niagara library services are coordinated through Brock University’s Gibson Library. Our Waterloo library is located at the School of Medicine Waterloo Regional Campus. Interlibrary Loans at the Waterloo campus are facilitated through Jane Syrotuik, while loans at the Niagara Campus are done through Brock Library. Access to the regional campus library collections are restricted to students and clinical faculty affiliated with that campus.

**Reminder : Activate your MAC ID though MUGSI :** [https://mugsi.mcmaster.ca](https://mugsi.mcmaster.ca)

It is important that you activate your MAC ID through MUGSI soon after your arrival. Your MAC ID will allow you to access the wireless network and LibAccess. LibAccess allows you to access e-books, e-journals and online databases from off-campus. The LibAccess login is located on our home page.

**McMaster Email:**

Your McMaster email is the only one provided to the Library by the Registrar’s Office. On occasion, you may receive emails from the Library regarding overdue books or fines. If you plan to use your Medportal email address as your primary email, please be sure to forward your McMaster email to that account.