UNSW Library Digital Information Skills Framework

The **Library Digital Information Skills Framework**, aligned with [UNSW's Graduate Capabilities](#), forms the foundation of the Library's teaching and learning support, with the goal of equipping students with lifelong critical information and digital literacy skills.

The framework presents a staged progression of information and digital literacy capabilities—identifying, discovering, evaluating, and responsibly using scholarly information—each with defined learning outcomes. Although staged, the outcomes are not stage-dependent; instead, they represent support available to students to meet their individual and collective needs at any point in their academic journey through tailored workshops, digital learning objects, and consultations.

	Fundamental stage	Proficient stage	Advanced stage
Identify Know what information is needed and how to use it	Recognise a need for information based on gaps in knowledge or understanding Distinguish between types of information and resources and their academic uses Identify instruction verbs, key concepts, and limiting words in a research question to guide information gathering	Determine when sufficient information has been gathered to address gaps in knowledge or understanding Exercise judgment in selecting suitable information sources based on their type, academic use, and relevance to the key components of a research question	Create and apply original research questions that reflect a comprehensive understanding of the field of information
Discover Search and find information	Design basic search strategies Access content in subject areas using Library and UNSW systems and tools (including AI), such as course resource lists and the Library Collection	Implement targeted search strategies across various platforms to locate relevant information and data, refining them as necessary	Master advanced search techniques across diverse platforms to discover specialised information and datasets, adapting strategies to meet complex research needs Use advanced features on platforms to save searches, results, and/or set automated alerts
Evaluate Assess the credibility of information	Recognise that information quality varies and may include bias and misinformation Aware of the quality of information produced by AI	Develop critical judgment in selecting quality information, and use appropriate criteria to evaluate its relevance, currency, reliability, and accuracy	Consistently evaluate information sources and justify their quality and appropriateness based on relevant criteria
Responsible use of Information Using others' work	Recognise the importance of referencing and attributing others' work, including referencing tools like AI when they are used to generate, analyse, or provide insights into that work	Apply ethical principles in using the work of others, demonstrating an understanding of copyright, plagiarism, and intellectual property	Demonstrate advanced ethical information practices by acknowledging and, when necessary, seeking permission to use others' work