Information literacy is crucial to lifelong learning. The American Library Association (ALA) defines information literacy as a set of abilities requiring individuals to “recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information.”

Students today have access to a plethora of information sources in digital, visual, textual, and technological formats. The Beecher Library instructional program helps students develop learning strategies to begin to make sense of this information. Beginning in Kindergarten and continuing through Sixth Grade, the library program provides comprehensive instruction to develop the capabilities needed to effectively access, evaluate, and apply information in an ethical and responsible way.

The following document reflects our current approach and practices for addressing the citation and resource evaluation components of information literacy at Beecher Road School. New ALA standards are anticipated in the Fall of 2017 at which point this document will be modified to meet any new curriculum expectations.

**Citation and Resource Evaluation**

**Kindergarten**

Author: Can you find their identity and qualifications or expertise? Are they an authority on your topic?
Publisher: Is it a company, academic, personal, entertainment or non-profit organization?

- Identify title page and roles in creating a resource (author, illustrator, publisher, location)

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First Grade

Author: Can you find their identity and qualifications or expertise? Are they an authority on your topic?
Publisher: Is it a company, academic, personal, entertainment or non-profit organization?

- Identify title page and roles in creating a resource (author, illustrator, publisher, location)

Design, Organization, Ease of Use, and Navigation

- Identify nonfiction navigation and text structure features: table of contents, captions, pull aways, charts/graphs, index, glossary

Content/Point of View/Bias - Is it balanced and factual, does it contain a bias or opinion, and are their arguments well-supported? Does it contradict the information you found in other sources? What is the purpose of this resource? Does the publisher or author have a bias or particular point of view on the topic?

- Introduce a variety of nonfiction genre, emphasizing the role of scientific, observation, or evidence-based information
- Guide students to develop and support an opinion based on a nonfiction read aloud

Second Grade

Author: Can you find their identity and qualifications or expertise? Are they an authority on your topic?

- Identify and locate the title page and roles (author, illustrator, publisher, location)

Publisher: Is it a company, academic, personal, entertainment or non-profit organization?

- Introduce location/s of the publisher and copyright year
Design, Organization, Ease of Use, and Navigation

- Identify nonfiction text features: table of contents, caption, pull aways, charts/graphs, index, glossary

Content/Point of View/Bias - Is it balanced and factual, does it contain a bias or opinion, and are their arguments well-supported? Does it contradict the information you found in other sources? What is the purpose of this resource? Does the publisher or author have a bias or particular point of view on the topic?

- Begin to introduce a variety of nonfiction genre, emphasizing the role of scientific, observation, or evidence-based information
- Begin to guide students to identify facts and author’s opinion, if present, in a read aloud
- Begin to guide students to develop and support an opinion based on a read aloud text

Currency - When was it last updated? Do you need current or historical information? Who can update or edit the information?

- Introduce locating the copyright year for print or in-hand resources
- Introduce the need for current, up-to-date information in nonfiction works

Third Grade

Author: Can you find their identity and qualifications or expertise? Are they an authority on your topic?

- Locate, access, and navigate general and specialized reference nonfiction resources
- Begin to locate, access, and navigate information databases

Publisher: Is it a company, academic, personal, entertainment or non-profit organization?

- Begin to locate and identify the publisher and imprint companies
Begin to cite information and image sources for a print or in-hand resource

Design, Organization, Ease of Use, and Navigation

Continue to analyze nonfiction text features and visual devices: chart, cutaway, diagram, infographic

Content/Point of View/Bias - Is it balanced and factual, does it contain a bias or opinion, and are their arguments well-supported? Does it contradict the information you found in other sources? What is the purpose of this resource? Does the publisher or author have a bias or particular point of view on the topic?

Introduce a variety of nonfiction genre, emphasizing the role of scientific, observation, or evidence-based information

Practice guiding students to identify facts and author’s opinion, if present, in a text

Guide students to develop and support an opinion based on a text

Currency - When was it last updated? Do you need current or historical information? Who can update or edit the information?

Identify to identify strongest source material using copyright dates to establish currency

Fourth Grade

Author: Can you find their identity and qualifications or expertise? Are they an authority on your topic?

Begin to identify and review bibliographic information about the author to determine expertise

Plagiarism - what it is, how to how to avoid it

Introduce citing a book using Noodle Tools citation application

Introduce basic image citation in student-generated projects

Publisher: Is it a company, academic, personal, entertainment or non-profit organization?

Create formal print or in-hand citations using Noodle tools
Woodbridge School District
Library Media Program: Informational Literacy Overview

- Begin to locate and identify the publisher and imprint companies
- Begin to consider the publisher as a company or academic source
- Introduce simple citing of images, begin to identify photo/image, photographer, illustrator, or URL credits

Design, Organization, Ease of Use, and Navigation

- Locate and search print or in-hand, and database resources independently for research and citation

Content/Point of View/Bias - Is it balanced and factual, does it contain a bias or opinion, and are their arguments well-supported? Does it contradict the information you found in other sources? What is the purpose of this resource? Does the publisher or author have a bias or particular point of view on the topic?

- Act as “persuasive authors” and incorporate a point of view into research presentation
- Begin to identify and incorporate factual information to support an opinion
- Introduce plagiarism and develop appropriate note-taking strategies
- Introduce print or in-hand citation in basic MLA format, using NoodleTools
- Introduce simple citation for images

Currency - When was it last updated? Do you need current or historical information? Who can update or edit the information?

- Utilize copyright dates to identify strongest source material
- Understand resources may have multiple publication dates, based on edition

Fifth Grade

Author: Can you find their identity and qualifications or expertise? Are they an authority on your topic?

- Identify and review bibliographic information about the author
  - Determine expertise
  - Determine purpose for publication
Woodbridge School District
Library Media Program: Informational Literacy Overview

- Plagiarism - what it is, how to avoid it
- Practice citing print or in-hand resources using Noodle Tools
- Introduce formal image and web page citation for student-generated projects

Publisher: Is it a company, academic, personal, entertainment or non-profit organization?

- Begin to Create Works Cited using Noodle Tools, locate and identify the publisher for print or in-hand, images, websites, and databases

Design, Organization, Ease of Use, and Navigation

- Search, locate, access, navigate and utilize print or in-hand, database, website, and image resources for research and citation, with assistance
- Currency - When was it last updated? Do you need current or historical information? Who can update or edit the information?
- Use multiple types of resources in research
- Introduce matching topics with the need for current and/or historical information
- Locate and identify the currency of their information for citation

Content/Point of View/Bias - Is it balanced and factual, does it contain a bias or opinion, and are their arguments well-supported? Does it contradict the information you found in other sources? What is the purpose of this resource? Does the publisher or author have a bias or particular point of view on the topic?

- Locate and identify publishers, authors, and groups producing the resource information
- Search for additional information, with assistance, such as:
  - “About Us or Our Organization”
  - “Staff” - biographies, expertise, or authority
  - “About the Publisher” - educational, scientific, or entertainment
  - “Mission Statement” - purpose of the organization
- Use multiple resource formats for research including websites, databases, reference, and print or in-hand to support information authority, accuracy, and credibility
- Locate and identify editing rights, with assistance: who can alter/add to website
- Identify and evaluate information, with assistance, for:
  - Point of view or bias
  - Alternative points of view, presented with well-supported arguments
Sixth Grade

Author: Can you find their identity and qualifications or expertise? Are they an authority on your topic?

- Identify and review bibliographic information about the author
  - Determine expertise
  - Determine purpose for publication
- Plagiarism - what it is, how to how to avoid it
- Practice citing print or in-hand resources using Noodle Tools
- Practice formal image and web page citation for student-generated projects

Publisher: Is it a company, academic, personal, entertainment or non-profit organization?

- Create Works Cited using NoodleTools, locate and identify the publisher for print or in-hand, images, websites, and databases

Design, Organization, Ease of Use, and Navigation

- Search, locate, access, navigate and utilize print or in-hand, database, website, and image resources for research and citation, with some assistance

Currency - When was it last updated? Do you need current or historical information? Who can update or edit the information?

- Use multiple types of resources in research
- Practice matching topics with the need for current and/or historical information
- Locate and identify the currency of their information for citation

Content/Point of View/Bias - Is it balanced and factual, does it contain a bias or opinion, and are their arguments well-supported? Does it contradict the information you found in other sources? What is the purpose of this resource? Does the publisher or author have a bias or particular point of view on the topic?

- Locate and identify publishers, authors, and groups producing the resource information
- Locate and identify editing rights, with assistance: who can alter/add to website
• Search for additional information, with assistance, such as:
  ○ “About Us or Our Organization”
  ○ “Staff” - biographies, expertise, or authority
  ○ “About the Publisher” - educational, scientific, or entertainment
  ○ “Mission Statement” - purpose of the organization
• Use multiple resource formats for research including websites, databases, reference, and print or in-hand to support information authority, accuracy and credibility
• Identify and evaluate information, with assistance, for:
  ○ Point of view or bias
  ○ Alternative points of view, presented with well-supported arguments