Scott Shumate- Personal Information Literacy Framework

Personal Information Literacy Statement

Source Evaluation and Credibility Assessment

My approach to identifying credible sources prioritizes peer-reviewed publications, established institutional repositories, and authoritative organizations while cross-referencing multiple sources to verify accuracy and minimize bias. I evaluate resources by assessing author credentials, publication currency, methodological rigor, and potential conflicts of interest, applying consistent critical standards to both digital and traditional media while recognizing their unique strengths and limitations.

Information Organization and Management

I organize information through structured digital systems using consistent citation formats, tagged databases, and version control to maintain traceability and facilitate future reference. This systematic approach ensures efficient retrieval and helps maintain the logical connections between related sources and concepts.

Ethical Information Use and Attribution

My commitment to ethical information stewardship encompasses proper attribution through standardized citation practices, respect for intellectual property rights, and transparent acknowledgment of all sources while avoiding plagiarism and misrepresentation. This foundation supports responsible scholarship and maintains the integrity of the information ecosystem.

Digital and Media Literacy

To maintain relevance in our rapidly evolving digital landscape, I continuously update skills in evaluating multimedia content, understanding algorithmic influences on information delivery, recognizing deepfakes and manipulated media, and staying current with emerging platforms and technologies that shape how information is created, distributed, and consumed.

AI Integration

Use Case Determination

I evaluate AI tool use based on task complexity, my own expertise, and potential for adding value or efficiency. I prioritize AI assistance for ideation, preliminary research, and content structuring while reserving critical thinking, final decision-making, and creative synthesis for my own judgement. AI tools are most appropriate when they enhance efficiency without replacing essential learning processes or when they provide capabilities that significantly augment human analysis. Specialized AI tools that can be employed for specific tasks are preferred over general-use large language models, as they tend to be more tailored and produce more accurate output.

Content Evaluation and Verification

My approach to critically assessing AI-generated content involves systematic fact-checking against verifiable sources, cross-referencing claims with established databases, and evaluating logical

consistency within the generated material. I treat all AI outputs as drafts requiring verification, applying the same scrutiny used for any secondary source while remaining particularly vigilant for hallucinations, outdated information, and contextual misunderstandings that commonly occur in AI-generated content.

Integrity and Transparency

I maintain academic and professional integrity by clearly documenting all AI assistance, distinguishing between AI-supported research and AI-generated content, and ensuring that AI tools supplement rather than substitute for original thinking and analysis. I will not cite AI tools as sources of information because the source of the information and therefore its credibility cannot be verified; however, I will acknowledge any use of AI through an acknowledgement statement or in whatever form requested by a publication, institution, or instructor.

Bias Recognition and Mitigation

I actively identify algorithmic bias by examining AI outputs for stereotypes, cultural assumptions, and skewed perspectives, particularly in areas involving demographics, controversial topics, or subjective judgments. My mitigation strategies include diversifying AI tools and sources, seeking human perspectives from varied backgrounds, and critically questioning any patterns or conclusions that may reflect training data limitations or embedded societal biases.

Data Privacy and Security

I protect sensitive information by avoiding any input of confidential data into AI systems, understanding data retention policies of AI platforms, and using privacy-focused alternatives when handling personal or proprietary information. This includes regularly reviewing terms of service, implementing appropriate access controls, and maintaining awareness of how AI interactions may be stored, analyzed, or used for system improvement with or without my consent.

Reflection and Growth Plan

My growth plan centers on active engagement with emerging technologies through regular participation in professional development opportunities, subscription to reputable technology and information science publications, and active involvement in relevant professional communities and conferences. I will establish regular reviews of my personal information literacy framework, incorporating feedback from real-world applications, evolving best practices, and emerging research on AI capabilities and limitations. This adaptive approach includes experimenting with new tools in controlled environments, seeking mentorship from experts in emerging fields, and maintaining connections with academic and industry networks that provide early insights into technological shifts. As technology evolves, I will systematically evaluate how new developments impact my existing criteria and processes, updating evaluation rubrics to address novel AI capabilities, revising ethical guidelines to address emerging privacy and bias concerns, and refining organizational systems to accommodate new information formats and sources, ensuring my framework remains both current and principled in a rapidly changing information landscape.

AI Acknowledgement

This framework is based on personal experience and published literature, with the assistance of artificial intelligence tools for the purposes of initial source review, grammatical proofreading, and formatting review.