

This resolution was endorsed by the Academic Council on September 24, 2003.

**University Committee on Library (UCOL)
Resolution on Information Literacy
June 9, 2003**

The University Committee on Library (UCOL) is concerned about growing information illiteracy among University of California students and encourages UC campus senates and departments to address the issue in a systematic way.

We agree with the description of information literacy or competence adopted by the Librarians Association of the University of California (LAUC): "Information literacy is the ability to identify an information need, locate information efficiently, evaluate information, and use information effectively." We would add that information literacy should include ethical use of information.

The challenge of information literacy arises partly from the rapid growth of research and information tools and the students' inability to deal with these tools. Aspects of the illiteracy crisis include plagiarism, a lack of critical thinking skills, an inability to identify and evaluate sources, and a lack of understanding of intellectual property issues such as copyright. The problem on UC campuses is illustrated by the 1999 research study, "Information Competence at UCLA," included in: <http://www.library.ucla.edu/infocompetence/>.

The committee suggests that UC campus senates and library committees address this question and to this end encourages departments to establish collaboration among faculty and appropriate librarians to create teaching activities that generate information literacy.