Transcript for Information Need Video

Welcome to the Mundt Library at Dakota State University. We are here to help you with all of your information needs whether it be research for a class or personal interest in a topic. If you have any questions, feel free to ask a librarian.

In this video you will discover how your need for information is ongoing and how it is necessary to utilize various sources in order to get the best information.

The learning objectives addressed include: an understanding that the need for information is varied and continues throughout a lifetime and an exploration of how different sources can best meet an information need.

In our world information surrounds us, and we are often required to gather segments of that information for our own needs. One way to think about information is as “data that informs.” Information can take many forms and can answer many questions. Consider the following information needs and the methods you would use to answer the questions.

Who was the first governor of South Dakota? How does home schooling affect a child’s social development? Should I take a drug for depression? When does the grocery store close Saturday night?

Each of these questions could be answered by many different sources – a search on Google, an encyclopedia article, a scientific study, a phone call… That is why finding and using information can be so complex. Each source has its own relationship to the information and can provide you with different views. By compiling this information and adding it to your own knowledge you are able to learn and develop as an individual. The need for information does not end with writing papers for class. You will need information in order to make important life decisions. Thus, it is important for you to know where to find information and how to use it.

While there may not be a wrong place to gather information, there are better places to gather it. The better places will change, however, depending on your information need, so you must be aware of the wide variety of sources and the types of information they contain.

Given the following information needs, where would you go to find the info? A general overview of the Battle of Gettysburg? An in-depth look at the Battle of Gettysburg? A study comparing weapons used during the Civil War? As you can see a source which will give you great information for one need may be inappropriate for another need.

The following is a short list of various types of sources and ways they could be used.

A local newspaper is useful for community calendars, obituaries, or high school sports stories. A blog will provide you with commentary on current events, opinions, and maybe some how-tos. Maps are useful
when planning a trip, learning state capitals, or comparing land heights. Nonfiction books are useful when taking up a hobby, for pleasure reading, or when you are writing a report. Experts can be consulted for medical advice, improving the safety of your house, or investing money.

Remember with all the information out in the world, you do not need to tie yourself to one source. Get the best information you can. Explore to discover what different sources offer. Of course, if you have questions on what would be the best source for a specific information need, feel free to ask a librarian. It is their job to work with and discover information.

This video discussed connecting an information need with the best source as an ability that will be used throughout a lifetime.

**Answers to Quiz questions:**

- What source would you use to find a general overview of the Battle of Gettysburg?
  - Encyclopedia article.
- What source would you use to find an in-depth look at the Battle of Gettysburg?
  - Book
- What source would you use to find a study comparing the weapons used during the Civil War?
  - Journal article