POSITION:

The Ohio Educational Library Media Association (OELMA) supports the position that every student in every school in Ohio should have access to quality Information Literacy instruction. The State of Ohio in its Model Curriculum (ORC 3301.079A1aii) states that the standards include the development of skills sets in information, media, and technological literacies. To prepare students to be future-ready, productive members of a democratic society, information literacy must be a priority standard in today's P20 education environment. In an age where students are bombarded with information sources, they must be able to discern fact from fiction and apply that information to their everyday lives.

Information Literacy, as defined by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), is "the set of integrated abilities encompassing the reflective discovery of information, the understanding of how information is produced and valued, and the use of information in creating new knowledge and participating ethically in communities of learning" (ACRL, 2016).

ACRL further states, "An information literate individual is able to:
- Determine the extent of information needed
- Access the needed information effectively and efficiently
- Evaluate information and its sources critically
- Incorporate selected information into one's knowledge base
- Use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- Understand the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information, and access and use information ethically and legally" (ACRL, 2016).

As information literacy experts, licensed library media specialists have the necessary training, skill set and knowledge of resources to teach information literacy to all students by providing instruction and developing curricula that addresses information literacy (including media, visual, technological, textual, and digital literacies).

Committed to the educational excellence and academic achievement of all Ohio students, OELMA believes that every student in Ohio must have access to quality information literacy instruction provided by a licensed library media specialist.

DISCLAIMER: The position taken by the Ohio Educational Library Media Association (OELMA) represents the organization and cannot be applied to individual members or groups affiliated with the association without their direct confirmation.

Approved by the Ohio Educational Library Media Association Board of Directors March 10, 2017.

DEFINITIONS:

- **Digital Learning Content**: Learning materials and resources displayed on a digital device and shared electronically with other users. Digital learning content can be both open and/or commercial content (U.S. Dept. of Education, 2016).
- **Digital Literacy**: The ability to use information and communication technologies to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information, requiring both cognitive and technical skills (ALA, 2013).
- **Information Technologies:** Modern information, computer, and communication technology products, services, or tools, including the Internet, computer devices and other hardware, software applications, data systems, personal electronic devices, and other electronic content (including multimedia content) and data storage (AASL, 2016).
- **Media Literacy:** A 21st century approach to education. It provides a framework to access, analyze, evaluate, create and participate with messages in a variety of forms — from print to video to the Internet. Media literacy builds an understanding of the role of media in society as well as essential skills of inquiry and self-expression necessary for citizens of a democracy (Center for Media Literacy).

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