

**PHYS**  
**For Information Literacy**

**Major Program PHYS (Physics)**

**Briefly describe how Information Literacy will be taught within your major program. List courses in which these skills will be embedded.**

In addition to the basic competency achieved in ENGL110/111 or equivalent, all Physics students will receive instructions on how to conduct an effective search in the library and on the web for applicable Physics topics in the following courses

PHYS 230 (The development of Quantum Physics),  
PHYS 258 W (Laboratory in Electricity, Magnetism and Mechanics),  
PHYS 292W (Research Thesis in Physics).  
PHYS 230 and 258 are required of all physics majors

The catalog copy of the PYS 230, 258W and 292W courses will be altered by adding a sentence “ Provisions for the students to achieve Information Literacy Competency are included in this course”

**In order to meet ACRL Standard I Advanced Level,**  
(the student determines the nature and extent of information needed), PHYS 292 W will require that students develop a research project proposal with an accompanying annotated bibliography of a specified number of sources. In PHYS 258W the students are required to include in designated Lab. Reports a list of references that are suitable and appropriate to the experiment being performed.

**In order to meet ACRL Standard II Advanced Level**  
(the student accesses needed information effectively and efficiently), the library liaison will work with the instructor in PHYS 230 during designated class sessions to acquaint the students with pertinent print and electronic resources within the discipline. The library liaison and the instructor will teach students in PHYS 230 how informational resources have been organized within the discipline, how to formulate questions and key words for the purposes of database research, how to access and search source databases most relevant to the major, and how to assess the quantity and appropriateness of the information retrieved.

**In order to meet ACRL Standard III Advanced Level**  
(the student evaluates information and its sources critically), in PHYS 230 the library liaison and instructor will include discussions regarding how to determine scholarly, appropriate sources, and how to critically assess the reliability of information. Particular attention will be paid to recognizing and assessing the problems with the collection and compilation of aggregate information within the discipline. The ethical issues of research in the discipline, such as intellectual property and fair use of copyrighted material will also be discussed.

**In order to meet ACRL Standard IV Advanced Level**  
(the student uses information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose), instructors in PHYS 258W and 292W will expect students to utilize the information and sources they gather in their writing assignments for the course. Students will be instructed on how to produce written work that conforms to the critical analytical and formatting expectations of the discipline.

**In order to meet ACRL Standard V Advanced Level**  
(the students understands the ethical, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information), the instructors in PHYS 258W, and 292W will teach students when references should be used, and the appropriate citation style of the discipline. Students will be expected to utilize this style in their writing. In PHYS 230, 258W and 292W additional ethical issues will be discussed, as described in ACRL III above.

**Are all these courses required of your students? If not, how will you assure that all students attain the exit expectations for Information Literacy.**

PHYS 230 and 258W are required for all the physics majors, regardless of the track they choose. They suffice to satisfy the Scientific Literacy Competency requirement, but, as explained above, many of the other courses, in part required, and in part elective, also help decidedly to provide training in Scientific Literacy Competency.

**Date of Approval by Faculty of new version** NA

**Physics C&C Committee Revised version: 10-18-07**

**Date of Approval by School/College C&C Committee of the old version** Oct 26, 2004

**Physics contact person George Rawitscher,**

George.Rawitscher@Uconn.edu, 860 486 4377