Find and Cite Three-to-Five Sources: Applying the Sociological Imagination to Critical Information Literacy

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### Sociological Eye

- Sociology as a distinctive discipline
- **Social Structure:** The impact of social structures on human action
- **Socialization:** The relationship between the self and society
- **Stratification:** The patterns and effects of social inequality
- **Social Change and Social Reproduction:** How social phenomena replicate and change

#### Authority is Constructed and Contextual

- **Social basis and construction of knowledge**
- “Truth is political”
- Scientific knowledge vs. other ways of knowing

#### Information Creation as a Process

- “The medium is the message”
- “Truth is political”
- Scientific knowledge vs. other ways of knowing

#### Information Has Value

- Commodity: economic/financial structures support/constrain info production
- Means for education: varying access, promotion of “correct” information
- Means to influence: role and impact of propaganda

#### Research as Inquiry

- Ask questions like a sociologist
- Social assumptions vs. scientific evidence
- Verification process

#### Scholarship as Conversation

- Social context of scholarly discourse; (a) who is an expert in a field, (b) where the boundaries of a field lie, and (c) what can be said within these boundaries

#### Searching as Strategic Exploration

- Deconstruct search engines as products of human engineering and bureaucracy
- Search is a social behavior
- Knowledge is not easy

### Social Structure

- Social roles may privilege some as authorities
- Social institutions exert influence over what is considered valid or factual

### Socialization

- Ideologies impact accepted authorities
- “Fake news”
- Social media as performative work
- Trusted formats and sources vary by culture

### Stratification

- Institutions with authority to produce knowledge recreate social inequalities
- Certain forms of knowledge production are valued over others: e.g., low income students as *lacking* cultural capital, rather the institutional de-valuing of different cultures

### Social Change and Social Reproduction

- Scientific authority comes from approval by educational institutions; Academic success requires acceptance of certain “truths” about the social and natural world; Through young scholars, these “truths” persist
- Certain kinds of knowledge are reproduced; because scientists use existing theories for hypothesis building, methodological design, and interpretation, they will often fail to see what does not fit into these theories
- Social movements may be aided by social media, but the terms of use and algorithms that impact what information is seen are set by private ownership
- Every day, scientists encounter phenomena that cannot be explained by existing theories: often, these anomalies are ignored or avoided through a focus on certain methodologies over others

### Documents

- The patterns and effects of social inequality
- The relationship between the self and society
- The impact of social structures on human action
- Sociology as a distinctive discipline
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Applying the Sociological Imagination to Critical Information Literacy

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Challenge: Do you ever ask students to complete an assignment that includes a bibliography requirement? Literature research and writing is an opportunity to apply the sociological imagination to both the paper topic and to the process of discovering and selecting the information sources that will inform student work. However, this is often a missed opportunity: either information discovery is seen as ancillary to the assignment and not discussed, or library instruction may not meaningfully integrate sociological concepts.

Approach: The Sociological Information Literacy Framework
- Tool for identifying how to bring critical information literacy into the sociology classroom
  - Reflectively locate, understand, and use information in support of lifelong learning goals for developing informed citizens with higher-order thinking skills
  - Sociological Information Literacy is an understanding of how information and scholarship are created, published, disseminated, and used by individuals and organizations that is informed by sociological thinking and scholarship.
  - The Sociological Information Literacy Framework takes the form of a crosswalk between two guiding documents:
    1. Sociological Literacy Framework
  2. Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education

Next Steps: Peer review, revision, and putting it into practice!
- Review and endorsement of the Sociological Information Literacy Framework by the Association of College & Research Libraries and the American Sociological Association
- Making meaningful connections between sociological and information literacy will provide a foundation to enrich instructor-librarian collaboration in the classroom and strengthen overall student learning

Call for Peer Reviewers

The draft Sociological Information Literacy Framework is currently under development by the Anthropology & Sociology Section (ANSS) of the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL) as part of the Framework Companion Documents program, and is overseen by the ACRL Information Literacy Frameworks and Standards Committee (https://acrl.libguides.com/ILFSC). In order to create a robust, meaningful, and collaborative document representing the expertise of both librarians and sociologists, ANSS-ACRL seeks to gather peer reviewer input from sociology instructors, especially those active in the ASA Section on Teaching & Learning. The initial peer review and revision process is expected to take place during the 2018-19 academic year.

Please fill out the form at https://tinyurl.com/socinfolitreviewerscall to indicate your interest in volunteering as a peer reviewer.