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Patents & Information Literacy

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The ACRL Framework is an attempt to define information literacy using six threshold concepts. Patents could be a vehicle for addressing those concepts with STEM audiences.

<http://www.ala.org/acrl/standards/ilframework>

Authority is Constructed and Contextual

- Patentability vs quality
- Granted patents vs patent applications
- Examiner authority

Information Creation as a Process

- Patents are often the only public output of R&D departments
- From invention to patent to commercial product

Information Has Value

- Staking claim to ideas
- What does our system value as patentable?
- Information as a commodity

Research as Inquiry

- How have other people solved this problem?
- How have the solutions changed over time?

Scholarship as Conversation

- We can observe the entire conversation between the examiner and the inventor using the Public PAIR tool

Searching as Strategic Exploration

- Patent searching is a non-linear and iterative process
- Combining keywords, classes, and other search strategies