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*“The books that help you most are those which make you think the most.  
The hardest way of learning is by easy reading: but a great book that  
comes from a great thinker-- it is a ship of thought, deep freighted with  
truth and with beauty.”*

~ Theodore Parker

(Retrieved from [http://www.useful-information.info/quotations/library\\_quotes.html#reading](http://www.useful-information.info/quotations/library_quotes.html#reading), accessed on 6/19/12)

## What Does it Mean to Be Information Literate?

The National Forum on Information Literacy defines **information literacy** as “...the ability to know when there is a need for information, to be able to identify, locate, evaluate, and effectively use that information for the issue or problem at hand.” This is considered the most common definition. Another approach identifies information literacy as a set of competencies that an informed citizen living in an information society should possess to be able to participate intelligently and actively in that society.

Whether you prefer the first or the second definition or another one that exists in the information world, it is evident that our citizens must be **information literate** in order to function effectively in our information society.

Not only does a consumer of information need to identify what information is needed, but he must also understand how the

information is organized and recognize the best sources of information to use to solve an existing problem.

You might wonder why it matters. There is so much information bombarding us on a daily basis, information in many different forms. You, the end user, must be able to distinguish what is reliable and trustworthy from what is biased, out-of-date, misleading, or just plain untrue. Since the amount of information is not likely to decrease over time and since the vehicles by which we continue to access, review, and create information will also continue to be augmented, it will become even more critical that the user, by necessity, will need to be highly critical of the information retrieved.

If this seems daunting, fear not. Help is out there; all you have to do is talk to a librarian who can help you wade through the myriad mysteries of information and help you find what you're looking for!

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## **Find What You Need...**

Just like when you visit the public library, you can search the holdings of our library to find what you need. You can search by author's name (e.g., Blanchard, Ken), by book title (e.g., Leading at a Higher Level), by subject (Leadership—Handbooks, manuals, etc.), or by keywords (high performing).

Our online library catalog is called **Surpass** and you can bookmark this link <http://10.23.152.54/surpass/websafari.exe/> on your computer to allow you to check things in our collection at your convenience. It's very user friendly software, and it offers many different ways to access what is in our library.

Each item in our collection has a number on the spine to allow a user to locate it on the shelf. This number also represents the subject area in which that item fits. In general, most books with a similar subject will be located near one another on the shelves.

If you experience any difficulties while searching the catalog, please let me know, and I'll be happy to help you. I would also be happy to offer a brief tutorial on how to use the catalog; if anyone is interested, just say the word!

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## **Did You Notice?**



If you haven't visited the library lately, you'll find a change when you do. The videos that were previously in the A/V storage room have been relocated to the main library area and can be found on the shelving that surrounds the computer bay. These videos are available for checkout and should be brought to the circulation desk for the librarian to process. If I'm not available when you come in to borrow items, please leave me a note or send me an e-mail to let me know what you've taken.

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## **Brown Bag Lunch in the Library (for those who missed the e-mail)**

Well...the first year of our Brown Bag Lunch programs in the library is almost over. The group of **talented...knowledgeable...passionate...creative** people who participated as presenters this year helped to make this program a success. My thanks go to the following individuals who gave of their time, expertise, and talent over this period of time: BK Blankchtein (former employee), Mark Radcliff, Jennifer Beskid, Rick Harding, Claude Nelson, Nikia Knox, and Jeannette Marxen. The topics were diverse and captured the interest and attention of our staff, many of whom were regulars at all of the presentations.

To capitalize on the success of the first year, I invite the staff to consider becoming involved this year, whether as a new presenter or a returning one. The topics can relate to things in the workplace but we also invite presentations that go beyond what takes place here to both enrich and educate. This series has, as its purpose, to provide opportunities to learn about things beyond the work day that contribute to personal enhancement. Join the list of those who've already given of their time and help to contribute to the broadening of our minds and spirits.

If you are motivated to become involved, please contact me by phone (x3544) or e-mail. I look forward to hearing from you!

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## **In our library, did you know that ...**

- we regularly receive approximately two dozen publications that are relevant to the work of this agency?

- these journals can be checked out for a week at a time (except for the most current issue)?
  - titles include: Corrections Today, Law and Order, FBI Law Bulletin, Governing, GPN News, and numerous other titles?
  - these publications contain the most current information about law enforcement and corrections?
  - if you have a journal to recommend for purchase, please let me know?
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