

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fluencies

### Business/ Economic Information

#### Definition

An individual fluent in business and economic information will possess:

- **Information Literacy**- The ability to collect, create, evaluate, synthesize and organize business and economic information.
- **Technological Literacy**- The ability to apply appropriate technologies to communicate ideas and solve business and economic problems in the real world.
- **Critical Thinking**- The ability to analyze and weigh incentives, alternatives, costs, and benefits in increasingly complex business environments often marked by changes in public policies and economic conditions.
- **Innovative Thinking**- The ability to recognize and foster opportunities for innovation and collaboration, and respond with resourcefulness and creativity.
- **Ethical Awareness**- The ability to recognize ethical issues and exercise judgment in relation to the production and use of business and economic information.

Business/ Economic Information Fluency builds on the foundations of literacy, research, technical and critical analysis skills.

#### Library Strategic Initiatives

##### *Teaching & Learning*

- Model strong pedagogy and the innovative use of teaching and learning technologies
- Define, assess and promote 21st century fluencies
- Build on existing partnerships with faculty, staff and students and seek out new partnerships in order to further integrate the library
- Three new MUFA Librarian positions created to support 21st century fluencies in business, science and humanities

##### *Research*

- Improve discovery and access for research materials and scholarly resources

#### Future directions

- Business Inquiry/Fluencies course
- Facilitate the creation of open-access journals
- Identify and establish opportunities for integrating business and economic fluencies into other disciplinary contexts

## Key Library Contacts

- Director, 21st Century Fluencies
- Business Fluencies Librarian
- Liaison Librarian for Business
- Liaison Librarian for Economics
- Various McMaster University liaison librarians

## Campus and Community Partners

The Library partners with various departments, programs, groups and individuals both on and off campus to foster 21st century fluencies in teaching, learning and research.

Examples of such partnerships include:

- DeGroote School of Business and its affiliates
- Department of Economics
- Research centres connected with the DeGroote School of Business and the Department of Economics
- McMaster career service centres
- McMaster faculty/ curriculum planners
- Xerox Centre for Engineering Entrepreneurship & Innovation (XCEEi)/ MaRS
- Statistics Canada Research Data Centre @ McMaster

## Key Documents

- Burkhardt, G., et al. (2003). enGauge 21st Century Skills: Literacy in the Digital Age. Naperville, IL: North Central Regional Educational Laboratory.  
<http://liaison.blog.lib.mcmaster.ca/files/2008/11/engauge21st.pdf>
- DeGroote School of Business. (2007). *Strategy & vision*.  
<http://www.degroote.mcmaster.ca/about/strategy.html>
- Jones, R. T. (2005, Spring). Liberal education for the twenty-first century: Business expectations. *Liberal Education*.  
[www.aacu.org/liberaleducation/le-sp05/le-sp05leap.cfm](http://www.aacu.org/liberaleducation/le-sp05/le-sp05leap.cfm)