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Information Literacy:

Sharon A. Weiner
sweiner@purdue.edu

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Information Literacy: Research, Policy, and Practice

Sharon Weiner, EdD, MLS
Professor and W. Wayne Booker Chair in Information Literacy
Purdue University Libraries

March 22, 2013
University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
Outline

- My background
- Current understandings of the concept of information literacy
- State of information literacy
  - Research, policy, and practice
  - Hot topics
- Future
My background...

- W. Wayne Booker Chair in Information Literacy, Purdue
- VP, National Forum on Information Literacy
- Library administration
- Higher ed leadership and policy studies
Current understandings of the concept, information literacy

- Wide range of conceptualizations
  - Skills (define, find, synthesize, communicate)
  - Behaviors
  - Over-arching concept for other literacies
Job Training

The Digital Literacy Workforce page includes resources for finding a job, guidelines for creating a resume, career training and exploration information.

Frequently Used Resources

Understanding Medical Words: A Tutorial from the National Library of Medicine
Interactive tutorial to understand medical words. Read more

Nevada Literacy
This is the main Web site for literacy programs in Nevada. Contains links to see specific programs in Nevada, or explore the Nevada and National Institute for Literacy resources of interest. Read more

How to Setup Skype
Skype allows you to make a phone call over the Internet. It is also popular for its additional features which include instant messaging, file transfer, and video conferencing. Read more

In the Community

Broadband Access Project in Minnesota offers Technology and Workforce Training
The University of Minnesota Broadband Access Project (BAP) is a collaboration of 12 community organizations—four in St. Paul, three in South Minneapolis, and five in North Minneapolis—to expand... Read more

Las Vegas – Clark County Urban League Opens 15 New Computer Centers to Provide Digital Literacy Training
Las Vegas – Clark County Urban League (CUL) is teaching digital literacy courses at 15 new and 14 refurbished computer centers across the city to help people develop computer and workforce skills... Read more

Computers for Youth Provides Digital Media Training To Schools in Los Angeles
The Computers for Youth Foundation (CFY) is teaching... Read more

> View all
Health Literacy: Accurate, Accessible and Actionable Health Information for All

Health Literacy: the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services to make appropriate health decisions.

Health Literacy Activities by State

Click on any highlighted state to view health literacy activities.

About this site
This site provides information and tools to improve health literacy and public health. These resources are for all organizations that interact and communicate with people about health, including public health departments, healthcare providers and facilities, health plans, government agencies, non-profit/communit and advocacy organizations, childcare and schools, the media, and health-related industries. Read the welcome message.
Current understandings of the concept, *information literacy*

- Means for individual and societal empowerment
- “Habit of mind, or way of thinking, in which an individual habitually invokes use of best information in all contexts”

(S Weiner)
State of information literacy: Research

- Mostly in education settings
- Employer reports
- Health literacy—communications, nursing
- Info behaviors
- Individual as unit of analysis
Models and theories emerging

- Information Search Process—guided inquiry—inquiry based learning (Kuhlthau)
- Informed learning (Bruce)
- Sociocultural—information experience (Lloyd)
- Seven Pillars of IL (UK SCONUL)
State of information literacy - Research

- **Project Information Literacy** (Dr. Alison Head)
  - Confirms findings from other studies
  - Student “procrastination”
  - Difficulty with defining topic
  - Limited search capabilities, google and wikipedia
  - Lack of preparation for the workplace
Project Information Literacy is a large-scale study about early adults and their research habits.

Project Information Literacy is a national study about early adults and their information-seeking behaviors, competencies, and the challenges they face when conducting research in the digital age.

The large-scale and collaborative research initiative investigates how early adults from different college campuses conduct research for coursework and how they conduct "everyday research" for use in their daily lives. Read more.

What is PIL? >

What is PIL? Check out an infographic with key findings from our research. Tune in and watch a short video about ongoing research studies, including what we have discovered about how today's college students find information and conduct research for coursework and in their everyday lives.

Day after Graduation Study >

How do college graduates make the critical information transition from the campus to the workplace? What needs and expectations do employers have for how college hires solve information problems? Read PIL's 2012 research report with findings from interviews with 23 employers and 33 recent graduates in the U.S. (38 pages, 5.8 MB). Watch the preview video.

The latest coverage:
- Radio Bookmark (podcast)
- Education Week
- Inside Higher Education
- Library Journal
- The Seattle Times

Smart Talks >

AT A GLANCE

Inception: 2003

Goal: We are a public benefit nonprofit dedicated to studying how early adults conduct research in the digital age.

PIL Passage Studies: In August 2012, we began a new research initiative, "PIL Passage Studies," which are a series of studies investigating the critical information transitions early adults go through in their lives.

Recently Released: In October 2012, PIL published a research report from an exploratory study that investigated how college graduates solve information problems once they leave campus and join the workplace (38 pages, 5.8 MB). For the first six months in 2012, the PIL Team conducted 23 telephone interviews with employees across the U.S. and held five focus groups with a total of 33 recent graduates from four colleges and universities.

Upcoming Speaking Events:
- Electronic Resources & Libraries
  Austin, TX, March 16, 2013 (MEC)
- UT, Austin, iSchool Research Colloquium
  Austin, TX, March 19, 2013 (MEC)
- ACRL Information Literacy in the Real World
  San Jose, CA, April 5, 2013 (ACRL)
- Assn. of College and Research Libraries (ACRL)
  Indianapolis, April 11, 2013 (ACRL)
- Texas Library Association Conference
State of information literacy: Research

- Curriculum integration model (Wang)
  - Who—IL curriculum group
  - How—collaboration, negotiation, contextualization
  - What—IL in intended curriculum
  - Outcome—Info literate students
State of information literacy: Research

- Institution-level assessment

- Who Teaches Information Literacy? A Study of Faculty (manuscript in review)
  - Faculty either taught IL competencies
  - Or expected students to know them before a course
  - Faculty generally did not collaborate with others on teaching IL competencies (librarians, TA’s, writing centers, etc.)
State of information literacy - Research

- Research into Practice, Practice into Research professional development program
- Internship project
State of information literacy

- Infolit importance recognized
- Access to technology not enough
  - Accreditation documents
  - Obama proclamation
NATIONAL INFORMATION LITERACY
AWARENESS MONTH, 2009

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Every day, we are inundated with vast amounts of information. A 24-hour news cycle and thousands of global television and radio networks, coupled with an immense array of online resources, have challenged our long-held perceptions of information management. Rather than merely possessing data, we must also learn the skills necessary to acquire, collate, and evaluate information for any situation. This new type of literacy also requires competency with communication technologies, including computers and mobile devices that can help in our day-to-day decisionmaking. National Information Literacy Awareness Month highlights the need for all Americans to be adept in the skills necessary to effectively navigate the Information Age.

Though we may know how to find the information we need, we must also know how to evaluate it. Over the past decade, we have seen a crisis of authenticity emerge. We now live in a world where anyone can publish an opinion or perspective, whether true or not, and have that opinion amplified within the information marketplace. At the same time, Americans have unprecedented access to the diverse and independent sources of information, as well as institutions such as libraries and universities, that can help separate truth from fiction and signal from noise.

Our Nation’s educators and institutions of learning must be aware of — and adjust to — these new realities. In addition to the basic skills of reading, writing, and arithmetic, it is equally important that our students are given the tools required to take advantage of the information available to them. The ability to seek, find, and decipher information can be applied to countless life decisions, whether financial, medical, educational, or technical.

This month, we dedicate ourselves to increasing information literacy awareness so that all
State of information literacy-Policy

- National Forum on Information Literacy
  - Formed in 1989

- Response to ALA Presidential Committee on Information Literacy

- Advocates for IL
State of information literacy - Policy

- U.S. Policy effort: Information Literacy Proclamation Initiative
- International efforts—UNESCO, IFLA
- Summits
- UNESCO media and information literacy indicators
- Information literacy contests
State of information literacy-Policy

- Hoosiers and Information Literacy (HAIL)
- Policy brief: Role of Information Policy in Resolving Global Challenges
State of information literacy-practice

- ACRL standards to be revised
- Curriculum integration ideal, but scalability an issue
- Predominantly skills-based
- Need better evidence for methods and strategies
Hot topics in information literacy

- Workforce
- Assessment
- Curriculum integration
- Everyday life and communities
- Related literacies
The Future...

- Research
  - Not “what is,” but what **should be** and how to get there!

- Policy
  - IL in education, workplace, and everyday life
    - U.S. and international
The Future...

- Practice
  - Integrate into education
  - Expectations in workplace
  - Teach in context
  - Better systems
    - XXIV Century Press
Thank you!

Comments and questions....