America's Missing Link: Educational Reform and Workforce Development

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• Related to critical thinking, problem-solving, informed decision making, and communication skills

• 21st century skill

• Umbrella for all literacies—digital, financial, health, cultural...

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“To be ready for college, workforce training, and life in a technological society, learners need:

• *the ability* to gather, comprehend, evaluate, synthesize, and report on information and ideas;

• *to conduct* original research in order to answer questions or solve problems; and

• *to analyze* and create a high volume and extensive range of print and non print text in media forms old and new.”

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**What’s the problem?**

**Assorted Domestic Issues**

- K-16 Educational Reform
- Workforce Preparation
- Healthcare Access and Utilization
- Environmental Challenges
- National Security
- Consumer Responsibility
- Corporate Accountability
- Home Ownership
- Everyday life decisions
- Lifelong learning

Knowing how to find and use information effectively is key to a thriving, democratic republic!

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The Freshmen Study

Project Information Literacy

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Work quality correlated with high school 21st Century Skills

But, employees reported in last year of school:
- 73% often analyzed info to draw conclusions about a topic
- 66% often developed communications that included info to support their ideas

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• Most Americans say higher education system is doing a **fair to poor job** of preparing college graduates.
A 2012 Harvard Business School Study: Out of 5,000 employees at 22 global companies, fewer than 44% of employees say they know where to find the information they need for their day-to-day work.

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Most business leaders said:

- More important for college grads to have **soft skills**
- **Thinking critically** is as important as thinking creatively

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But employees have difficulty with critical thinking, communication:

- 50%+ executives said employees were **average at best**
- 75% said these will become **more important** for the job in 3-5 years
- More managers admitted their employees were **below average in 2012 than 2010**
- 81% employers found high school grads deficient in written communication
- 70% of employers found high school grads deficient in critical thinking, problem-solving
Low health literacy associated with:

– Higher medical costs
– Patient adherence/compliance challenges
– Inefficient use of services
– Poorer outcomes
– Even mortality

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Financial literacy

- Average of 2.8/5 FL questions answered correctly on national test
- 41% of Americans reported spending less than their income
- 11% of youth age 15-18 scored 80% or higher on FL test
- 61% of US adults admit to not having a budget
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- California State PTA
- California Office of Privacy Protection
- University of California
- Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud, and Romo
- California Library Association
- California School Library Association
- Computer Using Educators
- California Teachers Association

"Investigate the language of the standards...examine the number of times certain words appear; notice that the term “research” appears 132 times, exceeding the mention of “vocabulary” (79) and “nonfiction” (64), and comes in close to “evidence” (155) and “complexity” (196).

The word “information” (244) is used more often than all five, but behind “reading” (388)."

http://www.slj.com/2013/07/opinion/on-common-core/ccs-seventh-shift-on-common-core/
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"What matters to you, matters!"

Uncommon Core
Student Focused
Different for every learner
Desired Learning

Common Core
Standards Focused
Same for every learner
Required Learning
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Information Literacy is the “equity in education” equalizer...i.e. integrate and mainstream information literacy practice throughout formal and informal educational and workforce infrastructures.

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Goal: All 50 States and U.S. Territories
NFIL INFORMATION LITERACY RECOMMENDATIONS

• Inclusion of Information Literacy Practice in First Lady’s Reach Higher Initiative

• Convening of a White House Conference on Information and Digital Literacy in 2015

• Establishment of a White House Council on Information and Digital Literacy

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Encourage the inclusion of information literacy practice in the First Lady Michelle Obama’s Reach Higher Initiative –

*President Obama’s “North Star Goal – 2020, U.S. will have the highest % of college graduates in the world.”*

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A White House Conference on **Information and Digital Literacy** will bring together a broad spectrum of diverse constituencies to address the following themes:

**Education** – *College and Career Readiness*
**Business** – *Workforce Development and Global Economy*
**Health** - *Medical and Behavioral Health Literacy*
**Government** – *Democracy, Technology, and Citizenship*

*The End Game:* To foster an interdisciplinary network that reinforces a national information and digital literacy framework which undergirds academic achievement, workplace success, civic and personal responsibility, lifelong learning, and quality of life.

**Projected Timeframe:** October, 2015

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Council Mission: Oversee the embedment of information and digital literacy practices within the mission statements of established national frameworks of domestic policy and the Executive Branch of government.

Duties: Advise the President and Domestic Policy Council on information and digital literacy issues consistent with developing effective strategies pursuant to the President's domestic policy agenda.

Members: Community anchor institutions i.e. schools, libraries, health care providers, public safety entities, social service organizations, community colleges, and other institutions of higher education.

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Health literacy fact sheet.

*How students, teachers, and principals benefit from strong school libraries: The Indiana Study.*

*How school librarians help kids achieve standards: The second Colorado Study.*


Making the case for financial literacy.

*Microsoft Partners in Learning, Pearson Foundation, Gallup. 2013. 21st century skills and the workplace*

Project Information Literacy

School libraries impact studies.


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