

# Understanding **Information Literacy**

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# What is information?

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- Encapsulated knowledge
  - Packaged human experience
  - A source that can provide a myriad of data
  - A resource that takes different formats, packaging, transfer media, and varied methods of delivery
  - People: family, friends, tutors, fellow students
  - Institutions, i.e., national health service professionals or help facilities
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# Need for Effective Use of Information

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- A vital element for creativity and innovation
  - A basic resource for learning and human thought
  - A key resource in creating more knowledgeable citizens
  - A factor that enables citizens to achieve better results in their academic lives, with regard to health, and at work
  - An important resource for national socio-economic development
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# What is literacy?

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The basic definition of literacy is

- “the condition of being literate”
- “...learned; able to read and write;
- “having a competence in or with”

# What is information literacy (IL)?

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Generally, IL is the ability or set of abilities

- To find and use information

(American Association of School Librarians, 1999)

- To recognize when information is needed and to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information.

(American Library Association, 1998)

- “The ability to find, access, evaluate, use, and communicate information in all of its various formats”.

(Work Group of Information Competence, 1995, p.4)



# IL Definition by ACRL

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a set of abilities requiring individuals to “recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information.”

**(Association of College and Research Libraries, 2000)**



# IL Definition by CILIP

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“The ability to think critically and make balanced judgements about any information we find and use. It empowers us as citizens to reach and express informed views and to engage fully with society.”

**(Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals, 2018)**



# Info Literate Individual: Key Characteristics

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An information literate individual is able to:

- Determine the nature and extent of information needed
- Access the needed information effectively and efficiently
- Evaluate information and its sources critically
- Incorporate selected information into one's knowledge base
- Use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- Understand the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information, and access and use information ethically and legally



# Why IL is important?

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- A skill set which is Important for life time.
- Essential for everyone in everyday life, academia, and workplace
- Critical in environment of rapid technological change and proliferating information resources.
- Enable individuals as an effective and efficient information user
- A basic human right in a digital world and promote social inclusion.
- Promotes problem solving approaches and thinking skills – asking questions and seeking answers, finding information, forming opinions, evaluating sources and making decisions fostering successful learners, effective contributors, confident individuals and responsible citizens.
- Improved and informed decision making in different contexts
- Provide a competitive advantage

# Elements of Information Literacy

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**Visual Literacy** – Ability to understand and use images including the ability to think, learn, and express oneself in terms of images.

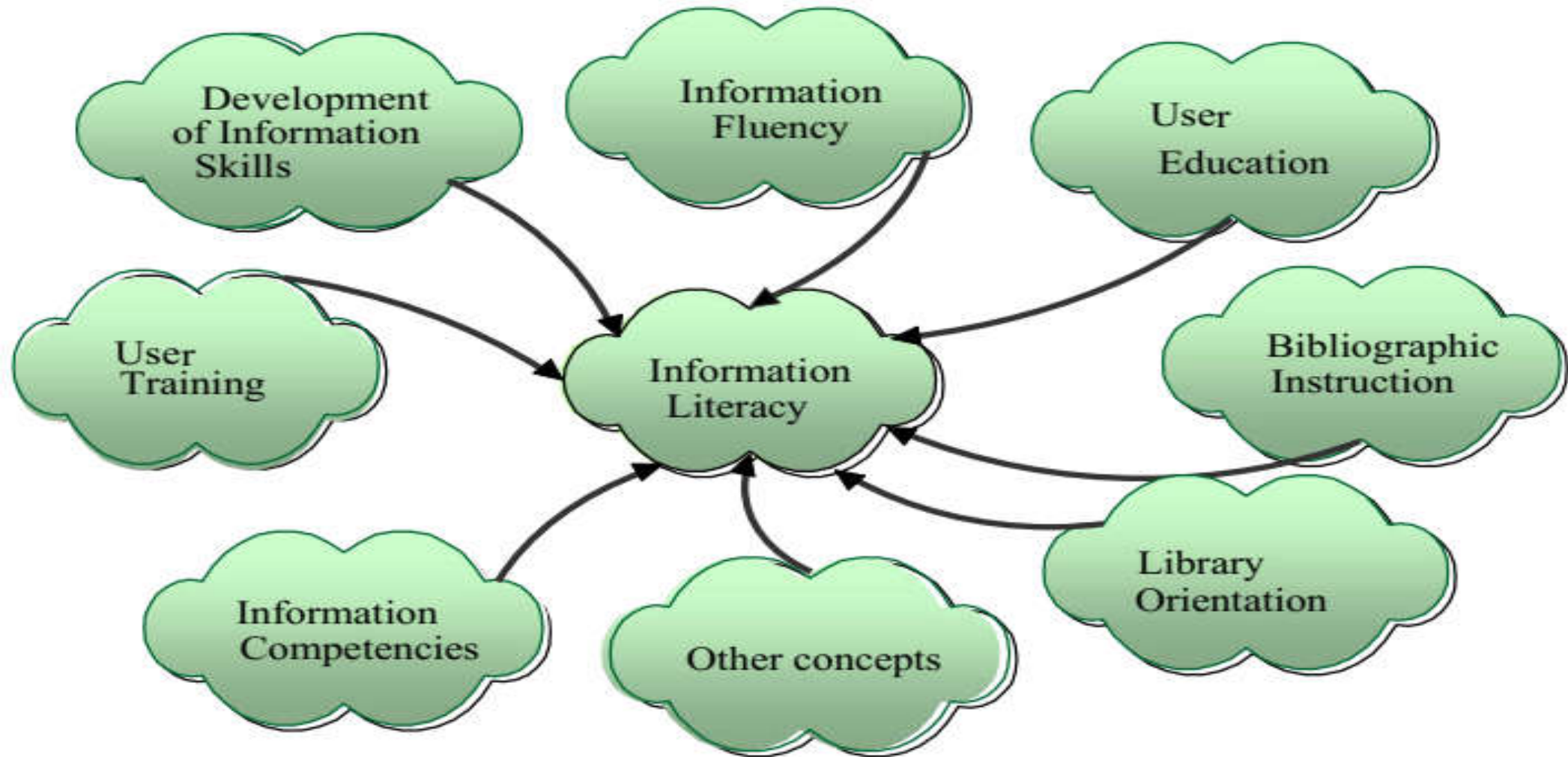
**Media Literacy** – Ability to understand all of the mediums and formats in which data, information and knowledge are created, stored, communicated, and presented, i.e., print newspapers and journals, magazines, radio, television broadcasts, cable, CD-ROM, DVD, mobile telephones, PDF text formats, and JPEG format for photos and graphics.

**Computer Literacy** – Ability to create and manipulate documents and data via software tools such as MS word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.

**Digital Literacy** – Ability to understand, find, evaluate, use, create information in multiple formats from a wide range of sources when it is presented via information communication technologies (ICTs) such as e-tablets, internet, social media, etc.

**Network Literacy** – Ability to deploy online social and professional networks to filter and obtain information; to communicate with and inform others; to build collaboration and support; and to develop a reputation and spread influence”.

# IL and related concepts



# IL related concepts

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**Information fluency** – Capability or mastering of information competencies

**User education** – Global approach to teach information access to users

**Library instruction** – Focuses on library skills

**Bibliographic instruction** – User training on information search and retrieval


**Information competencies** – Compound skills and goals of info literacy

**Information skills** – Focuses on information abilities

**Development of information skills** – Process of facilitating information skills

# Contexts of IL

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- IL and Everyday Life
  - IL and the Workplace
  - IL and Education
  - IL and Citizenship
  - IL and Health
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# IL and Everyday Life

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- Improve everyday life decision-making, for instance, checking hotel review, travel review website, comparing insurance policies
- Relevant when conducting online transactions
- Awareness about internet security measures
- Essential in avoiding online and phone scams
- Help individuals to behave ethically in online activities including social media
- Facilitate individuals in managing online identities and taking in to account issues of privacy and personal safety.
- Awareness about 'digital footprint'- the traces left behind when individuals consume and create information

# IL and the Workplace

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- When and how to use info in achieving organizational goals and improve organizational activities.
  - Applied whatever the scale, location, and environment, context of the workplace
  - Helps to interpret work-related info, share it and transform it into knowledge.
  - Facilitate in working ethically and legally (e.g. data protection, intellectual property)
  - Awareness about corporate policies, strategies, activities.
  - Contribute to employability by underpinning attributes that are well-recognized by recruiters such as teamworking, problem solving, and analytical skills
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# IL and Education

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- Applied to all stages of learning – formal and informal
- Covers schools, further education, higher education and lifelong learning
- Enhance and enrich a range of taught subjects
- Improve academic competence, performance and research productivity
- Help students in avoiding plagiarism and academic procrastination
- Lays foundation for lifelong learning
- IL underpins transferable, employability skills, and meeting workplace expectations.
- Enable students to engage in deep learning – perceiving relationship between ideas, asking novel questions, pursuing innovative lines of thoughts
- Equip learners at every level with intellectual strategies – problem solving, framing problems in new and ground-breaking ways.




# IL and the Citizenship

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- Allows individuals to acquire and develop understating of the world
- Help in reaching informed and balanced views
- Recognizing bias and misinformation
- improve political participation and decision-making for votes
- Create awareness about civic responsibilities
- Help in address social exclusion by making sense of the world.
- Provide ability to combat fake news in mainstream media, social media
- Reinforces democracy and civic engagement.

# IL and Health

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- Help in making informed choices related to health and wellbeing of individuals.
  - Finding reliable and credible information sources for management of health conditions and preventive care
  - Informed decision-making for diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis.
  - Allows individuals to engage in an informed dialogue with health care professionals.
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Thank You