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Information literacy beyond the academy: recent perspectives from the UK

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Overview and introduction

- About Jane Secker and LSE

- About the UK CILIP Information Literacy Group

- Student Ambassadors for Digital Literacy (SADL) project at LSE

The CILIP Information Literacy Group

- Special Interest Group of Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals set up in 2003

- Founded LILAC in 2004

- Run the the open access, peer-reviewed Journal of Information Literacy

- Run informationliteracy.org.uk

- Fund training events, sponsorship and offer research bursaries for members

- Community of over 1000 members, 3300 followers on Twitter @infolitgroup

https://www.flickr.com/photos/criminalintent/3834911120

Our aims….

- Share good practice in information literacy teaching and research
- Provide a network and a voice for information literacy work in the library profession

- Undertake research and innovation initiatives
- Work across the library sectors
- Reach out beyond the library sector…….

Information literacy in the UK

- Despite increasing recognition of the value of **digital literacy & skills** in UK government, information literacy work often not recognised outside Higher Education (HE) sector
- Attempts to address this through the research bursaries scheme: focusing outside HE
- Developing links with: schools, workplaces, trade unions, other professional groups and organisations
- Advertising for an Advocacy and Outreach Officer

IL in the HE Sector

- IL highly developed and widely recognised in university libraries
- Increasing focus on
  - Finding, evaluating and managing information (plagiarism)
  - transition from school and graduates going into the workplace
  - digital and using social media tools
- Expertise on supporting research students and students undertaking dissertations
- Many attempts to embed in curriculum

Our challenge…..

- To get IL outside the HE community

- To break down the digital divide

- To connect with other interested stakeholders who may have traditional views of what librarians do and information literacy

GO DIGITAL NEWCASTLE

SUPERCHARGING INTERNET SPEEDS ACROSS NEWCASTLE – HELPING RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES TURN THE CITY INTO ONE OF THE BEST CONNECTED PLACES IN THE UK

FIND OUT MORE!

- First project funded by ILG based in Newcastle public library
- Support for residents to go online
- Establish a network of digital champions
- Training for front line Newcastle council staff

Current ILG research projects

- DeVIL Project(Determining the value of information literacy for employers)
- How does Information Literacy add real value to businesses?
- Developing a tool to determine how information competences underpin the performance and effectiveness of enterprises

- Research led by Stephane Goldstein and Drew Whitworth

INFORM ALL
information know-how for all

Current research projects in 2015

- Learning, lending, liberty? Can school libraries be engines for youth citizenship?

- The role of public libraries in citizenship education and political participation

- Led by Lauren Smith

Europejski Tydzień Młodzieży Katowice 2011 / European Youth Week Katowice 2011 by Kris Duda licensed under Creative Commons: https://flic.kr/p/9LTNXn
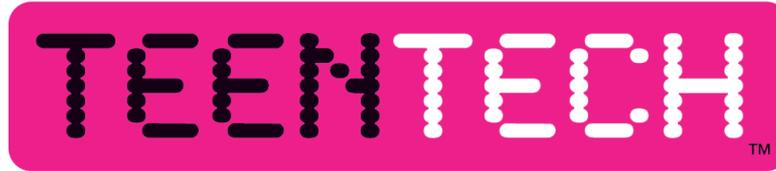
- A initiative in UK schools for 13-16 year olds to foster an interest in science, technology and innovation

- Run TeenTech events around the UK

- Sponsors include: Google, Airbus, nationalgrid, Network Rail, Maplin and ILG

- Prestigious awards ceremony at Royal Society

- From 2015 all projects judged on their Research and Information Literacy skills

Student Ambassadors at LSE
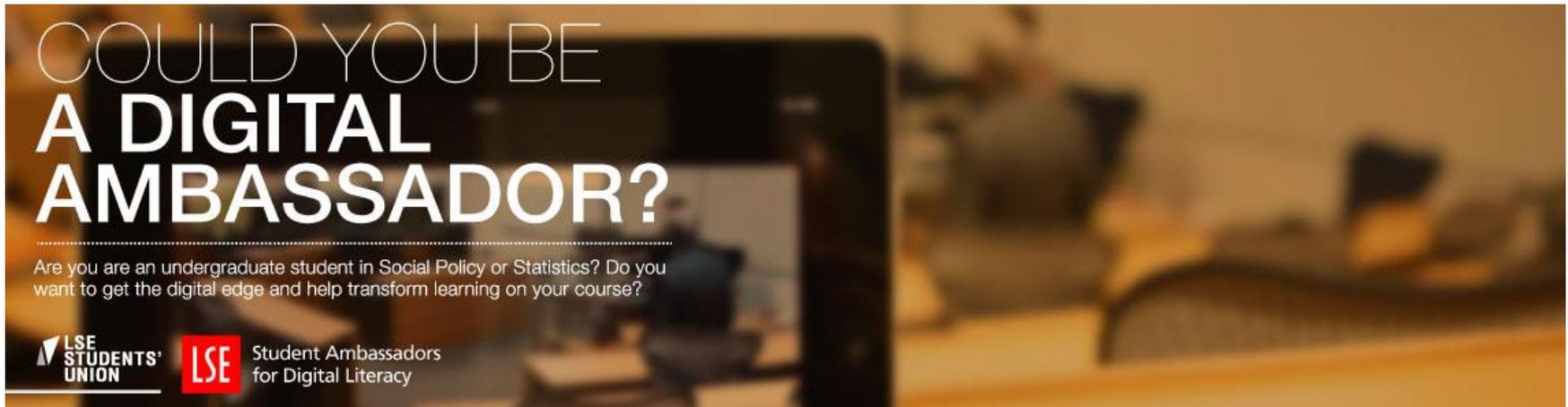
"By digital literacy we mean those capabilities which fit an individual for living, learning and working in a digital society: for example, the skills to use digital tools to undertake academic research, writing and critical thinking; as part of personal development planning; and as a way of showcasing achievements."

JISC definition:

SADL Project aims

- To **understand** students' existing digital and information literacy (DIL) skills.

- To explore how best to **support students** to improve their DIL skills and provide **peer support**.

Student partnerships

- Students can be **empowered**
- **Sharing** experiences beyond their institution
- Working with **other students** (not just Students' Union)
- A more 'real' student voice
- Your champions!
- Student partnership [toolkit](#) (from Jisc)
- **Tensions**: freedom vs support, guidance and structure

SADL Senior Ambassadors

- Worked alongside staff
- Gave feedback on workshop content
- Guided and worked with students in workshops
- Gave feedback on sessions
- Led student projects

Going forward

"For partnership to be embedded and sustained beyond documents, projects and initiatives, it needs to become part of the culture and ethos of the institution"

HEA framework for partnership in learning and teaching in higher education (2014)

Why digital and information literacy?

- Terminology matters
- It's about identities and boundaries
- It can prevent links being made
- But it can start a dialogue about purpose & values

Information Literacy Landscape

Academic literacies

learning development

New literacies

multimodal learning

Study skills and academic writing

Transliteracies

Information literacy

critical thinking and evaluation

Critical analysis

Search skills

Media Literacy

Critical use of non-textual communication formats

Digital literacy

Ethics and e-safety

Computer literacy and functional skills
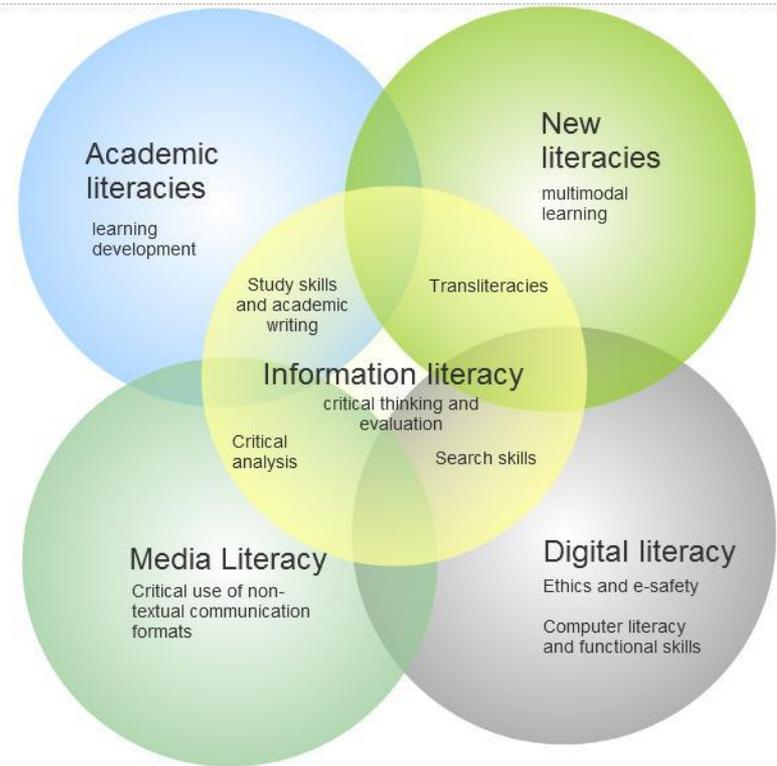
create and share your own diagrams at gliffy.com

Digital capabilities: the six elements

Information, data and media literacies

Digital creation innovation and scholarship

ICT proficiency

Digital identity and wellbeing

Digital learning and self development

Communication, collaboration and participation
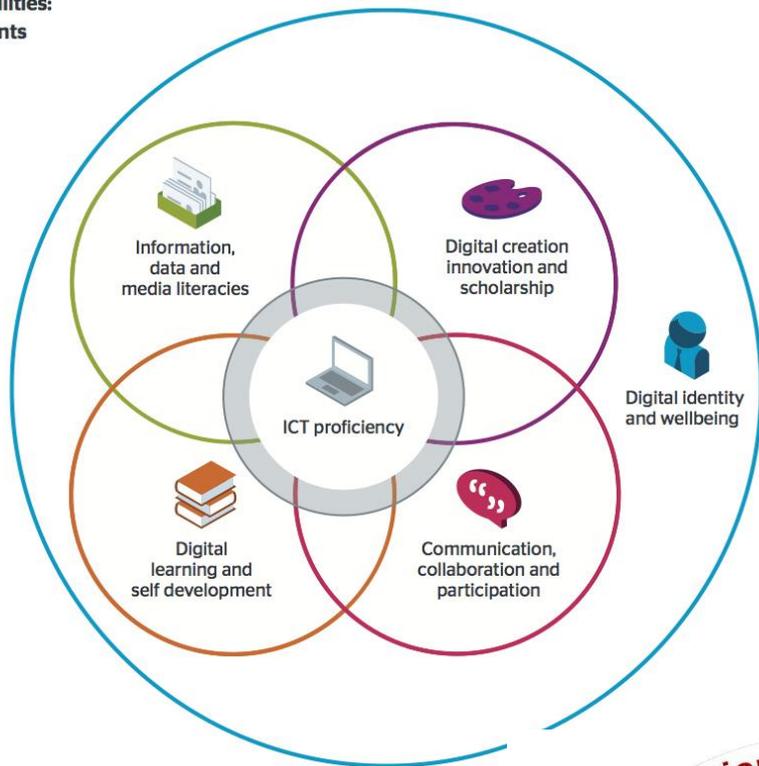
Jisc (2015) Digital Capabilities

Social dimension of information

Learning to learn

Transition to higher education

Advanced information-handling

Synthesis and knowledge creation

Subject context

Becoming an independent learner

Key skills

Presenting and communicating

LEARNER

Academic literacies

Ethical dimension of information

Mapping the information landscape

Managing information

Resource discovery in your discipline

Secker and Coonan (2013) A New Curriculum for Information Literacy

Information literacy landscape

Identify

Present

Scope

Information literate person

Manage

Plan

Evaluate

Gather

SCONUL 7 Pillars of Information Literacy
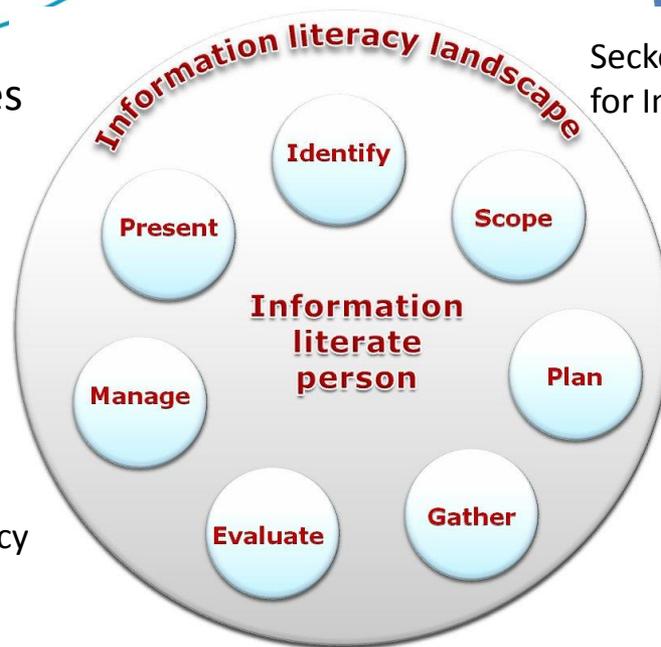
"Information literacy empowers people in all walks of life to seek, evaluate, use and create information effectively to achieve their personal, social, occupational and educational goals. It is a basic human right in a digital world and promotes social inclusion in all nations."

UNESCO Alexandria Proclamation 2005

Thank you and goodnight Vienna!

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References and further reading

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http://www.informationliteracy.org.uk/