Report on Recent USA Information Literacy Activities
UNESCO/IFLA

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Outline

- National Forum on Information Literacy
- iSkills Assessment
- IL Summit
- ICT Policy Council
- ACRL and ARL
- New report
National Forum on Information Literacy (NFIL)

- For almost 20 years:
  - Clearinghouse of information
  - Incubator of ideas
  - Support network
National Forum on Information Literacy (NFIL)

- Plans to become a non-profit
- Discussions with Purdue University as possible “organizational home”
  - Purdue is recruiting Endowed Chair for IL
- Opportunities for collaboration, grant funding, even greater influence
iSkills Assessment

Educational Testing Service iSkills Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Literacy Assessment

http://www.ets.org

- Measures ability to navigate, evaluate, make sense of information available through digital technology
- Assesses critical thinking in digital environment
- Aligned with ACRL Standards
American Competitiveness in the Internet Age
2006 Information Literacy Summit

- Demonstrates evolution of IL from school-based need to workforce and global need

“...need for ICT literacy skills as a necessary foundation for K-16 academic success, workforce development and productivity, and lifelong learning is so evident that it is often overlooked.”

Dr. Lana Jackman

Key Points from Summit

- IL crucial to competitive advantage of individuals, enterprises, regions, nations

- All literacies are about social change, lifelong learning

- Should develop IL programs for all ages of students; also teachers
Key Points from Summit

• Business community understands importance of good information management, can be crucial ally for IL

• A team of experts should develop national standards for information literacy.
National ICT Literacy Policy Council

- 16 influential education and business leaders
- Purpose to determine national standards for ICT literacy
ICT Policy Council Report

“Setting Standards on the Core and Advanced iSkills™ Assessments”

- Core Assessment, score range from 0-300
- Cut score of 165:
  - 24% of community/technical college
  - 39% of college freshmen
ICT Policy Council Report

- Advanced Assessment, score range from 400-700
- Cut score of 575 included:
  - 27% of college juniors
ACRL and ARL

- Association of College and Research Libraries
  - IL standards for individual disciplines: anthropology & sociology; political science; science & technology; English
  - Proficiencies for instruction librarians and coordinators
  - “Immersion” workshop held 10 times
  - New “Assessment Immersion” to be offered Dec. 4-7
ACRL and ARL

- IL Standards for Higher Education translated into Spanish, Greek, French, Chinese, Japanese, Farsi, and Italian; need volunteer translators for other languages
- Webcasts

- Association of Research Libraries
  - New Director of Research, Teaching, and Learning
New Report

“Toward A Definition of 21st Century Literacies”

National Council of Teachers of English, 2008
“Toward A Definition of 21st Century Literacies”

“The twenty-first century demands that a literate person possess a wide range of abilities and competencies, many literacies. These literacies…are multiple, dynamic, and malleable…. 
“Toward A Definition of 21st Century Literacies”

They are inextricably linked with particular histories, life possibilities and social trajectories of individuals and groups.”
“Toward A Definition of 21st Century Literacies”

Twenty-first century readers and writers need to:

- Develop proficiency with technology tools
- Build relationships to pose and solve problems collaboratively, cross-culturally
- Design & share information for global communities to meet a variety of purposes
Twenty-first century readers and writers need to:

- Manage, analyze, synthesize multiple streams of simultaneous information
- Create, critique, analyze, evaluate multi-media texts
- Attend to ethical responsibilities of complex environments

http://www.ncte.org/announce/129117.htm
Questions or comments?