

The “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu, Romania

The LBUS Library

The Librarians' Association of Romania

The FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE in ROMANIA

on

Information Literacy / Cultura Informației

CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

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Honorary President of the conference
Prof.dr. Constantin OPREAN



Foreword

The First International Conference in Romania on Information Literacy, Sibiu 2010, stands for a major event that gives the specialists in Librarianship and Information Science the great opportunity to meet in a friendly and proficient atmosphere.

The Conference is organized by the Central Library of the „Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu together with the Librarians’ Association of România, the Information Literacy Department.

Conference Themes

- Information Literacy (IL)
- IL and research
- Developing the IL practitioner
- Measuring impact
- Using technology to teach information literacy
- Information Science in Library
- Digital Library for online teaching and learning
- The creation of effective learning environments
- The challenges posed by diversity
- Making connections: cross-sectorial initiatives
- Innovative practice
- Information Organization, Information Architecture and Information Retrieval

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- Mioara VONCILĂ, "Dunărea de jos" University, Galați, Romania

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Section I : INFORMATION LITERACY

Libraries and Information literacy

Hermina G.B. ANGHELESCU, Ph.D.

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Information Literacy involves forming a set of theoretical and practical knowledge, allowing the identification of information needs, followed by locating, evaluating and using the retrieved information, in an approach to solve a problem, to find a response and to communicate the retrieved and processed information, by a new value-added product.

Clarifying the terminology and concepts specific for the information culture, is followed by the presentation of the skills required for any individual, so that he can function properly in the knowledge society, which requires a lifelong training. Libraries of all types and librarians are all agents directly involved in establishing and ensuring the development of the information society and in preparing the citizens to function efficiently in an increasingly computerized society. Libraries develop programs to assist and to educate the public in the search, retrieval and recovery information. Librarians collaborate with the educational institutions in the curriculum reform, to ensure a quality information retrieval and to use the information efficiently and fairly, in a framework dominated by ethical principles.

Best practices are presented in the American libraries with application to the realities of the Romanian libraries.

“Continuous Education for a Common End”

Information Literacy and Life-long Learning in the Digital Era

Dr. Manolis KOUKOURAKIS,

University of Crete Library, Greece

In our globalized society life-long learning plays a crucial role for the education of citizens and their fruitful incorporation in the modern economic structures. The constantly changing working environments require that current or future employees are prepared to accept continuous education in order to be

able to adaptable to new positions or further developments in their occupation. Information Literacy is considered to be one of the key factors of modern life-long education, since it “teaches people how to learn”.

Although it thus seems that life-long learning is a demand of the times, mainly related to the imperatives of modern economy, the idea of continuous education is a rather old one, tracing back to ancient Greek philosophy. In this paper we will examine Aristotle’s views on the issue of continuous education, and try to draw some conclusions in relation to modern LLL practices, with special reference to IL and its contribution to the deepening of the democratization of our multi-scattered society. We will also elaborate on the role of higher education institutions and academic libraries in the development and promotion of IL education.

Keywords: *information literacy, life-long learning, higher education, academic libraries, digital society, globalized economy*

The Increasing Importance of Information Literacy as a 21st Century Skill

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*Never before in the history of the planet have so many people –on their own- had the ability to find so much information about so many things and about so many other people
T. L. Friedman, 2005*

The concept of information literacy has long been discussed and its importance for life long learning has long been recognized in the literature of librarianship and information science. Today, as the amount of information increases, quality of information becomes uncertain due to the new technologies and tools such as Web 2.0 which allow everyone to participate in creating and spreading information. Additionally, characteristics of the new generation (known as Internet or Google generation), such as believing that what is on the web is correct, require high level critical thinking skills. As a result, information literacy skills become a survival skill in the information age, and the traditional content and the mode of information literacy instruction require alteration.

Information literacy in the South Eastern European region: the way forward

Sonja ŠPIRANEC, Zorica Mihaela BANEK

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Sciences, University of Zagreb, Croatia

A diagnosis of the state of information literacy in the SEE region, based on earlier research and insights (Proposal for an IL Platform and an Action Plan for Central and South-East European Countries, UNESCO “**Training the Trainers in Information Literacy**” Workshop, Ankara) gives the overall impression that the majority of countries in this part of Europe is lagging behind information literacy achievements. Due to the impact of information literacy on the development of knowledge-based societies and economies, the lack of clearly stated information literacy agendas deepens social and economical disparities and divides between this region and other parts of Europe.

The authors of this paper believe that the obstacles to information literacy in the countries across the region are more or less the same and that this similarities are caused by the fact that information literacy is a highly contextual phenomenon, determined by different socio-technical, political or historical factors. On the other hand, all those countries are experiencing changes and transformations that provide opportunities to increase awareness of the vital importance of information literacy.

In the paper the authors will analyze the variables that have determined the poor state of information literacy in the region, point out concrete opportunities that emerge from contextual factors experienced by all those countries (e.g. educational reforms, the Bologna Agreement) and discuss further steps that need to be done in order to achieve some advancement in this field.

Information literacy in Serbia: Initiatives and strategies

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The general aspiration towards joining the European Union and creating the knowledge society in Serbia involve significant challenges for the Country. One of the most demanding changes that Serbian libraries will be facing consists of implementing information literacy (IL), i.e. citizens that are prepared for lifelong learning in a world that is overloaded with information of all sorts. The essential premise of this paper lies with two convictions of the authors: that, on the one hand, libraries are a natural environment for the development of information literacy, and on the other, information literacy must contribute to the citizens' quality of living.

The paper will offer a general overview of the current status of IL in Serbia, the actors in the IL process, the programs, the initiatives, and, above all, what the role of libraries in this endeavor is.

Key words: Information literacy, knowledge society, library's mission, libraries in Serbia, information literacy in Serbia.

Library Network Support Services (LNSS): embedding information literacy and collaboration across the Shannon Consortium

Jerald CAVANAGH, Pdraig KIRBY

Limerick Institute of Technology - Republic of Ireland

This information rich society presents a challenge to identify and utilize best pedagogical strategies to achieve information literacy (IL)- *the trademark pedagogy of librarianship* (1). IL is vital in capitalising on the diverse and often overwhelming range of information choices with which we are continually faced. These challenges are compounded further by the internet a gift which has presented us with near instantaneous access to the World's

information but has also forced us to develop strategies for confronting issues concerning accessibility, reliability, authenticity and validity as well as information overload.

This paper charts the journey of the Library Network Support Services (LNSS) project- a unique collaborative effort between the “Shannon Consortium” libraries of Limerick Institute of Technology, University of Limerick, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick and the Institute of Technology, Tralee. Comprising of arguably the most important issue in education today that of Information Literacy this paper concerns the LNSS project and its innovative use of Reusable Learning Resources to embed transferrable information literacy skills across the Shannon Consortium.

We will follow the journey of the LNSS from the important work at initial conception stage by the four Library Directors in the partner libraries. We outline the successful bid made to the Higher Education Authority and on to the process of delivering the main aims of the LNSS project that of the development, implementation and evaluation of an innovative and fresh suite of online Information Literacy initiatives to international Information Literacy and Reusable Learning Object standards for rollout across the partner institutions of the Shannon Consortium.

Following in depth project scoping consisting of extensive international research into Resusable learning, Information Literacy suites, learning outcomes, learning design and multimedia as well as analysis of the needs of learners and existing Information Literacy initiatives across the consortium it quickly became apparent of the need to aim the Information Literacy suite at undergraduates and postgraduates audiences. Following extensive consultation with the stakeholders using workshop, meeting and interview techniques and identification of appropriate Information Literacy suites it soon became clear that the LNSS would need to develop initiatives which would disseminate both lower and higher order Information Literacy skills. The learning design would need to include lower order Information Literacy skills such as searching and evaluating information as well as higher order skills such as research management and good practice, getting published and writing skills as well as career planning.

This process led the LNSS to the conclusion that in order to address these dual needs the development of two distinct information literacy suites would be necessary. It was agreed that both suites would need to build on existing Information Literacy module design by incorporating use of multimedia technology and interactivity thereby contributing positively to active learning.

The aim is not just to promote information literacy over the duration of the project but to embed reusable and transferrable life-long learning skills the effect of which will permeate throughout the partner institutions with lasting effect thereby supporting e learning, blended learning and distance education. We propose to depict the origin and development of the LNSS project including such elements such as project scoping and research, marketing and customisation of each suite and also a practical demonstration of the Information Literacy suites themselves. We will also cover a new proposal to develop *Student Study Skills Online*- 15 hours of highly interactive content and diagnostic tests in areas such as *Academic writing*, *Information Literacy and Knowing yourself as a learner* including diagnostic tests as well as depiction of IL training methods for Library staff.

University Library of Bayreuth (Bavaria), Germany

Ralf BRUGBAUER

Director of the Library

From the Federal Republic of Germany, Dipl.-Biol. Ralf Brugbauer, Executive Director of the University Library Bayreuth (Bavaria) and Honorary Senator of the Lucian Blaga University, will send a greeting to the organizers and guests of the FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on **Information Literacy** in ROMANIA. He will report on the worldwide growth of information services and will disclose the important task libraries should perform by helping to navigate through the information jungle. He also will throw a glance at the activities of the German libraries in this area of work.

Library Literacy: the Step before Information Literacy

Robert CORAVU

“Carol I” Central University Library of Bucharest

Acquiring library skills is the first step that a person must take to become information literate. The article pleads for the university library’s role in training students to become aware of today’s possibility they have access to: knowledge resources and information options. There are a few examples of activities developed by “Carol I” Central University Library of Bucharest, regarding training in library skills and not only.

Information Literacy and Information Resources Management in modern Library

Lect. Dr. Cristina ALBU,
Librarian Carmen PREDESCU, Librarian Gabriela VASILE
University “Politehnica” of Bucharest, Central Library

Information literacy has a major role in this era of the information society. For this reason information literacy is gaining a very high profile as an essential aspect within education. From a modern library perspective information research management concern the process of managing information resources, information technology and a subset of information processes involved in the information life-cycle.

The goal of information resources management is to help people and organizations access, process and use information efficiently and effectively. A modern library provide access to the information collections which may contains digital books, digital scanned images, graphics, textual and numeric data, digitized film, audio-video clips, etc. Digital information plays an increasing role in the provision of scientific information.

The purpose of this paper is to present the concept of information literacy, the role of information resources in providing digital information and how information resources management assure access to information resources and services. The article provides a point of view about the new sources of information in the digital area in modern library and information life-cycle as a benchmark in information management.

Information Literacy and the Digital Culture

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Most people understand *information literacy* as „*the skills of knowing how to locate, evaluate and use information*”. The American Association of School Librarians and the Association for Educational Communications and Technology define information literacy in terms of „*a set of competencies that*

an informed citizen of an information society ought to possess to participate intelligently and actively in that society". It will be our working definition.

The information / knowledge society is today dominated by digital media and communication. *Digital culture* has emerged naturally as "*the field of study that seeks to explore the cultural ramifications of digital technology, and how the alterations in the patterns of communication, information processing, and archiving resulting from the use of digital technology have influenced human behaviour*".

In this paper I will first discuss the different faces of digital culture, from e-mails and messengers to digital art and social networks, including aspects related to digital information literacy. Secondly, I will try to focus on educational aspects regarding young students' behaviour in the information society and the way students are affected by information literacy and digital culture characteristics. My arguments are based on a study involving 120 students enrolled in the first year of Computer Science Studies. The students have been asked to answer to a questionnaire in order to evaluate their information literacy level and to build the behavioural profile of their generation.

The main conclusion of the study is that phenomena as time fragmentation and interrupt culture are specific to our students' life style profile. They have the skills to locate and use information, not always being interested to evaluate it; and, as expected digital information literacy is prevalent.

From Mundaneum to Wikipedia. Brief History of Knowledge Organization Systems (KOSs).

Ligia CARANFIL

The Library of the Romanian Academy

My paper will comprise the eventful history of the project of *The Encyclopedia Universalis Mundaneum*, or L'atlas Universel, conceived by Paul Otlet and Henry La Fontaine, as one of the first attempts of world knowledge organization at the end of XIX and the beginning of the XX Century.

I will then compare it to the development of Wikipedia as a Wikimedia Project, started in 2001, to build free encyclopedias in all languages of the world, thus creating a parallel between the one and the other. I will show what role UDC played in Otlet's utopian ideas of the world knowledge organization, and I will finally present their most recent project of using UDC as a notational or

conceptual hub within the contents of Wikipedia, either integrating the UDC codes or linking the Wikipedia articles to these codes.

I will show how Mundaneum foreshadowed the Wikipedia, as the Repertoire Bibliographique Universel prefigured on paper support the much later Internet on electronic support.

The full paper will have 8 pages and it will be designed to be fitted in the more general topic of the Conference: *Information Organization, Information Architecture and Information Retrieval*.

Re-inventing Culture in the Information Society. a sustainable Approach

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The aim of the present paper is to perform a critical survey of the ongoing transformation, evolution and challenges of culture as it is modeled by the global information society. There is a paradigm shift, from the traditional concept of culture to the adaptation of culture production and consumption in keeping with technological progress - from the printed age to the digital age, from Guttenberg to Google. Thus, the paper also examines the new set of concepts and catchphrases that has emerged as a response to the pressing need of creating a new vocabulary appropriate for the novel and rapid changes.

Keywords culture: opportunities and challenges; information vs. knowledge; information society; learning economy; digital age

Motto: “Our emergent world society, with its particular qualities of speed, mobility, mass production and consumption, rapidity of change and innovation, is the latest phase of an ongoing cultural and social revolution. It has few historical precedents as a cultural context.”

(Alvin Toffler ed. *The Futurists*, p.51)

Information Literacy and Old Romanian Culture

PhD. Elena CHIABURU

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„Al.I.Cuza” University of Iași

The information literacy may be defined as "the ability to recognize an informational need, to locate, evaluate, effectively use and communicate the information in various forms".

From this point of view, the concept may be applied in the area of the old Romanian culture, being known that the man of the Middle Ages, as the modern man, wrote books, read, borrowed or lent them or exchanged reading information with other amateurs.

In time, the human being also develops his abilities to assess the informational contents of the books, one of the manifestations of the assessment being represented by the annotations made on their margins.

Informational Culture, a Paradigm of the Society of Knowledge

Assistant professor PhD. Cristina POPESCU

University of Bucharest, Faculty of Letters,
Information and Documentation Science Department

Permanently marked, inevitably, by the spatiality of conceptual developments, but also by the passage of time, we attend sometimes confused, sometimes powerless to "logical" phenomena, but where our professional possibilities or human limits are in a perpetual state of unstable equilibrium.

Information sources, especially the primary ones, have become very variable in this age to a high degree of information. The most modern sources, such as the Internet, used properly and after a filtration of the insignificant and redundant information can have a real utility. Perceived as being "traditionalist" and sometimes out of date, the specialty reading should have a particular place in professional training, if we are really wish performance for our specialists, remaining, however, the most widespread and frequently used information source.

Keywords: library, information, informational culture, society of knowledge, bibliography, tradition, modernity

Section II: IL, Scientific Research, Quality Evaluation and Measuring Performance

Information literacy (IL), supervising and research

Prof.dr. Gunnstein AKSELBERG

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Today universities and colleges spend considerable sums on electronic resources that give access to knowledge in all fields of study. We now have boundless access to all the knowledge in the world via electronic resources, and the cost of the technical equipment, updates, maintenance and subscriptions needed to access these resources is steadily rising.

Access to international databases is necessary to carry out work on the international research front. The resources are there, but what we are lacking today is adequate skills in accessing, using and evaluating all this knowledge. We must therefore train users – i.e. researchers – to be better at finding and evaluating the knowledge that is available.

For this reason, we must invest more in IL training in the academy, from the beginner's level to the highest academic level, the PhD degree. At the basic level, most academic staff can contribute to IL training. At the PhD level, advanced use of knowledge and advanced training in IL are required. Academic institutions must therefore put more into IL training. By doing so, we will considerably increase research productivity and improve the quality of research.

This paper examines links between IL, research productivity, and research quality. IL has the potential to both increase productivity and raise the quality of academic research. At all levels of research and in all areas of IL, there must be close collaboration between faculties and libraries. It is important that research and the teaching of IL should be seen as the shared responsibility of faculties and libraries. All research training and teaching should be a common concern.

Criteria for evaluating a librarianship research paper

Drd. Tabita CHIRIȚĂ
National Library of Romania

Criteria for evaluating a research paper can be divided in three categories:

1. Criteria establishing the subfields that shape the science information and librarianship field;
2. Criteria leading to the identification of a research paper in order to differentiate it from other scientific papers that do not fulfill the necessary conditions for a research paper;
3. Criteria meant to establish the specific elements necessary to define a research paper from the point of view of using specific tools for research work as well as research utility within Romanian librarianship area.

Measuring the impact of information literacy courses

Dr. Sanda BERCOVICI
Director, The Education and Social Work Library,
The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel

At the beginning of the 21st century, the academic library is involved more and more in the creative process of knowledge. The library understands its role for higher performances in both, teaching and research.

The continuous changes in higher education studies and the dissemination of information affect the informative media, the information use and the human knowledge. The library changes have a powerful influence on the way in which the library is informing the community, but also on the way in which the library specialists understand their role in the high studies performance and in the educational process.

The libraries support the research of the local scientific community not only by collecting a huge quantity of resources but by teaching search competencies and new technologies.

The lecture will also deal with the structured course of information literacy organized and taught by the teacher - librarian of the Education and Social

Work Library at the Hebrew University, emphasizing its impact on academic performance.

**Is the library what its users want it to be?
Performance measurement - a perspective of
Mihai Eminescu Central University Library**

Ivona OLARIU

“Mihai Eminescu” Central University Library Iasi

In recent years, the Central University Library from Iași undertook several approaches to assess its performance. In this paper we share our experiences about evaluation library process using performance indicators - ISO 2789: *Information and documentation - International library statistics* and ISO 11620: *Information and documentation: library performance indicators*.

Statistical data about library activities has always provided important information to library managers. A good library management considers users' information needs and the provision of quality services the main objective of the library activity. Performance measurement supports this process and it contributes to making purchasing decisions; furthermore, the performance indicators are benchmarking tools to identify best practices.

Performance indicators are calculated by collecting such quantitative and qualitative data and combinations thereof that evaluate the performance of an organisation or of a function/service.

Introduction of digital technologies in our library have necessitated the introduction of evaluation methods for this new approach.

The assessment of digital library services is realized in terms of use, services provided, costs, management tools, added value services. Thus, there are several key issues to be considered when developing evaluation criteria for digital library:

- to develop measures, methods, and specific indicators for digital library resources and for IT equipments;
- to consider measures and approaches that include the users, the quality and impact of the digital library collections;
- to develop evaluation goals not only for digital library, and also for traditional library;

- to engage in multiple assessment activities to develop a complex view of the digital library – a single form of assessment will provide only a limited view of the digital library resource/service.

Some performance measurement difficulties occurred.

Considering these issues, librarians will be able to understand better and to make good resource investment decisions about their digital library.

For a system of performance indicators to operate successfully, a professional approach, an automatized system of collecting and keeping data, a rigorous interpretation of them, a thorough knowledge of international standards and a lot of enthusiasm are needed.

At the beginning of a new year, the staff of each department analyses the results obtained (the values of the performance indicators) in the previous year and works to plan what they have to do to improve and diversify the services for the coming year. Until now, this was a good way to progress and to gain success.

Quality evaluation of library websites

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Assistant PhD. Candidate Lavinia Ștefania ȚOȚAN,
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The emergence of information on the World Wide Web is a recent development. Public library authorities are giving increasing prominence to provision of information online through websites.

The paper aims are to establish a kite marking of Romanian library's WebPages and to determine the standards used to assess the quality of this websites. This will be done with an instrument that has been developed for evaluating the quality of websites, WEB QEM method. The research is based upon approaches to evaluation that have been documented in the published literature, interviews of people responsible for websites, and providing a number of criteria that can be used to assess the quality of library WebPages.

The library website should always be the main starting-point for searches and the one virtual “entrance” to the library. The paper presents the main criteria for quality of a library website that can be summarized as follows: adequate language (to the population), clear structure, options for different user groups,

and all information up-to-date, short, concise information. The website, especially the homepage, should guide by the shortest possible way to the most-used information. Results show that significant work still needs to be undertaken in order to make these sites examples of “best practice” library services, there is still much work to be done, but the study identifies key areas of concern which would lead to the situation improving significantly.

Assessment of users' information needs and impact on library services

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“Babeş-Bolyai” University, Faculty of History and Philosophy

Investigation of the readers' information needs has always been in the attention of library management, with a view to implementing the policy of development and diversification of services offered to the public.

Traditional approaches (based on questionnaire surveys, statistics, analysis of documents) and careful behavioral studies of Romanian library readers have been present since the interwar period, when libraries were considered to be integral parts of education and literacy programs.

The technological changes that took place during recent decades and the diversification of information sources have determined the Romanian libraries to continue the application of specific investigation methods in order to identify new information needs.

The results of sociological investigations carried out in libraries have a major impact on the information services and also on the training programs of librarians and library users, effectively contributing to the development of their information literacy.

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These topics are addressed to in this paper with examples from the "Lucian Blaga" Central University Library, Cluj-Napoca.

Key words: assessment of users' information needs, questionnaires surveys, library services, information literacy, "Lucian Blaga" Central University Library, Cluj-Napoca

The Role of Information Literacy in Measuring Management Performance of Projects Financed through Public Funds

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This paper presents some aspects of information literacy in increasing the efficiency of management of projects financed from public funds.

Currently, there is an increasing interest in funding the research and investment projects through public programs. At the same time, the projects financed through public funds are implemented in a highly regulated and bureaucratic environment.

Public projects are enrolled in a high complexity level, dealing with a large number of aspects, like social, economical, environmental, political issues. These projects are financed from national public funds, by the European Union, such as pre- and post-accession programs, other European funds etc., or by other international financing institutions (IFI).

Rigorous planning is essential for an efficient management of public projects. The management performance of public projects is assessed through specific indicators defined along the 5 criteria set out by the OECD – relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, sustainability. In this regard, updated information is critical for an accurate measurement of management performance of projects financed through public funds.

In the new economy, the new technologies are useful means for data collection and processing, for disseminating and sharing information, for follow-up and better management, for setting up future strategies and actions. The project managers and other various stakeholders involved in public funds management are forced to develop additional abilities and skills. Intranet systems are developed as real knowledge systems, created as large libraries, where the information is shared and available upon access. Maintenance of these knowledge centres is an important responsibility.

The Role of Innovation in Romanian Statistical Field – Key Factor in Meeting Users’ Needs

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Romanian official statistics is in a continuous improvement process to ensure the development strategies, know-how and common approaches to EU Member States.

Innovation in the business of statistics requires actions that are intended to enhance and strengthen confidence in the statistics for providers and users of statistical data, increase the quality in statistics, at comparable levels to other European countries, identify and consult key users to understand their needs.

The wide variety of users of statistical data has a significant impact on the production of statistical information, this being the reason why it is necessary to develop statistical concepts and design of relevant statistical products for users in the public or private sector.

In developing the Annual National Program for statistical research all the stakeholders should be involved to formulate proposals for significant changes on data collection, methodologies and statistical products.

The National Institute for Statistics has proposed to review regularly, at intervals as short as possible, both the users’ needs and the standards of statistical products, increasing the web accessibility for statistical data and improving information quality.

The innovative actions in the field of statistics can contribute to adapt statistical research programs to current and future requirements of data users, to strengthen the technological infrastructure, organization and human resource development, to strengthen the national statistical system, to measure the economic and social status, the evolution of Romanian society.

Section III: Teaching IL and Developing the IL Practitioner

Open Access to Informational Resources in Pedagogical Approach of Information Literacy

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The impact of academic communication is important for society and for the progress of science. Working papers, proceedings and other products of scientific research are supplementary and alternative to traditional documentary sources. This kind of scholarly material is also important in order to realize where research within a given field is heading, or how it was developed, and who are the important researchers involved. In more and more universities all over the world this kind of material is being published and archived in open access repositories belonging to the university's institutional archive.

The academic world of Romania suffers from lack of information literacy education, lack of institutional repositories and open access publishing. The first institutional repository in the country was developed at Transilvania University of Brasov. The institutional repository open access publishing have been introduced into the information literacy course for the first year students in the engineering department.

The structure of this course will be presented in this paper, as well as the qualitative marketing research that was done among these students and among the library and information science students of the same university (LIS students do not have this course yet).

The students' attitudes, wishes and opinions about open access and its impact in science will be presented. The research was done by a 6-question questionnaire (2 background questions and 4 questions on open access: 1) Do you know about OA principle, 2) Do you agree with OA-principle, 3) Have you accessed the OA publications of the Transilvania University Institutional Repository and 4) If you will publish, would you agree to put it in the IR?)

Keywords: *Information literacy, Open access, Institutional repositories, Open access journals, Education, Scientific production.*

Assessment of information literacy skills, some experiences from University of Bergen

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In many universities in Europe, the teaching of information literacy is the domain of the library, in larger or smaller degree in cooperation with faculty. Information literacy may be included as a small part of ordinary courses, or as a subject that the library has control over. The information literacy skills of the students are therefore not assessed especially. One of the consequences may be a lack of understanding of the importance of information literacy skills among the students, and following lack of participation in the training opportunities. Pedagogical research has found that students place more emphasis and more importance to subjects that are assessed and given feedback. Maybe, to find a way of assessing the information literacy skills will be one of the ways for institutions of higher education to ensure that the students have these important skills? In this paper different ways the students' level of information literacy can be assessed will be explored, with practical examples of different assessments methods. We will also see how the assessment must be depending on and closely connected to the learning goals/learning outcomes. Thirdly, it will be discussed what assessment methods will be most useful and relevant, depending on whether the teacher of information literacy is the subject teacher or the librarian.

Key words: Information literacy, assessment, library pedagogy.

The Development of Information Literacy at the Level of Academic Community by means of New Synergies created among Librarians, Teachers and Students

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The aim of the paper is to consider the working method used at the level of the Galati local academic community, especially as regards the collection and creation of highly innovative information and the suggest possible solutions for the improvement of this process.

Starting from the inherent problems occurring during a process which brings together collectors and creators of information – belonging to different generations, having specific training and mentality - and which favours blending of the 20 th century methods and means with those of the 21 th century the paper envisages to identify the criteria on the basis of which new models for the development of the information literacy in the academic community of the University of Galati.

Since the technological development has favoured a new paradigm in processing the information, the necessity has emerged that new subsystems should be used in order to create information in an academic community.

Using the synergetic principles and regarding the university as an open and nonlinear system, the paper makes a case study meant to facilitate the development of a true process of information literacy in the academic community of Galati.

New requirements for the librarian seen as data manager

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Librarians and libraries all together are in a process of adaptation to the research system needs and scholarly communication exigency existing already in the community they are serving. Necessity of an active and continuous partnership between libraries and science community must be ensured incorporating the paradigm of guiding the user and helping the researcher.

Information literacy is a step forth on this path as the nowadays practitioner that calls himself a librarian is learning and has to rise up to the new status of information science specialist with an active role of being the information broker in the future knowledge exchange processes.

The University Library role in Information Literacy instruction

Associate professor Agnes ERICH

Valahia University of Târgoviste, Faculty of Humanities
University Library Director

Electronic environmental impact on all sectors of social and economic life influenced the university training too. Thus, it is required to introduce in training, indifferent of specialty disciplines, a course of information literacy to develop theoretical knowledge and practical skills concerning the construction, processing and communication of information. The paper try to analyze what kind of methods and resources must be used in information literacy instruction provided by a university library. An investigation of formal information literacy strategies in Romanian universities was initiated to examine their content and presentation. We try to demonstrate that the information literacy instruction is very important for the university users because it demonstrated the importance of all kind of information (traditional or on line) and how different kind of strategy concepts and models could increase effectiveness in this area of professional practice. The study found that all the strategies aimed to integrate information literacy into subject curricula by engaging stakeholders in collaborative partnerships.

Keywords: university library, information literacy, electronic environment, information strategy, information society

Information Literacy at Makerere University: Progress, Prospects and Strategies

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This paper defines Information Literacy (IL) and gives a brief background to the current IL programme at Makerere University. The main methods of data collection used were informal interviews with the IL instructors at Makerere University since very few publications about IL at Makerere University could be obtained. Emphasis was therefore placed on the description of the different situations experienced by the IL instructors, the Author's experience gained in Library User Education and the general assessment of the programme.

The IL programme aims at empowering users who have recognized a need, to locate scholarly sources of information, evaluate and effectively use suitable information gathered to accomplish the task at hand, improve on the quality of users' learning experience, and create an information literate community with efficient and portable skills for lifelong learning.

This paper therefore gives an overview of the IL programme at Makerere University, discusses how it is conducted, addresses the importance of periodic evaluation of the IL programme and proposes a way forward towards improving the IL programme at Makerere University.

Section IV: Information Architecture and Information retrieval

Pilot System for Information – Documentation Based on Web Platforms

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This paper presents achievements of research activity conducted under projects funded through national research programmes, as well as analysis of such information and documentation systems existing abroad.

Also, the design of such a System for Information and Documentation (SID) is presented. The SID is accessible through Web platforms in the field of science and technology.

Working procedures of the system are illustrated, as well as, its functional structure and standards that the design was based upon. Key features offered by the system are revealed along with a *modus operandi* for users and for information providers that have to ensure the digital content of the database.

How to put the Librarian at the User’s service. Information Retrieval

**Lect. Dr. Cristina ALBU,
Librarian Georgeta STANCIU, Librarian Rodica NEȘU**
University “Politehnica” of Bucharest, Central Library

For many years people have realized the importance of archiving and finding information. With the appearing of computers, it became possible to store large amounts of information and finding useful information from such collections became a necessity.

“The librarian plays a distinctive and dynamic role in easy accessing of information, for finding the right information at the right time.” In the era of

virtual research environments the ideal librarians must be qualified for satisfying the relevant requirements of the community they are serving. Being an expert in searching for materials and data they are required to have deep knowledge about retrieval system, the subjects and understanding the needs of users, as professionals who intermediate between information and users.

The article describes the new role of librarians in this context (mediator, information expert and information manager), the new skills of librarians (IT skills, qualification in knowledge organization, linguistic competence), the new profile of user which should be capable to browse the “next generation” library catalog, defined as the content needed by the students, instructors, and scholars necessary to do their learning, teaching, and research.

Also will do a review about information retrieval as a process of searching and finding information in the collections, relational databases and the World Wide Web; models and implementation, different measures for evaluating the performance of information retrieval systems, key techniques and other techniques and applications (cluster hypothesis, natural language processing).

The Digital Environment and the Academic Research: new opportunities of knowledge development

Mihaela DRAGU

Romanian Academy Library

The Open Access Initiative has opened new prospects for knowledge. Within it, the institutional repository, seen as a strategy of both valorization, provided maximum visibility, and preservation of scientific production, ensures a wide spread of scientific information.

The digital repository offers facilities that were unknown until now: the free, quick and easy access to the peer-reviewed scientific products. The researcher receives the scientific information, refining his own research and, on the other hand, offers the scientific information that will be used by other researchers too, easing up their study work, under advanced research conditions.

The share of the academic information will lead to the speed-up of scientific progress and the grow in cooperation frequency. The researcher will have the main part in a system of free access to knowledge. Open Access becomes a way of ensuring the competition, as the rapid comparison of the research results is possible, and the equal chances, whence, also the researcher’s motivation.

Within the digital environment, the institutional repositories must constitute, in the near future, a global system of academic communication for the valorization of the scientific content in favor of knowledge and the increase of the academic community prestige.

Key words: institutional repository, academic research, open access, scientific information

Digital information retrieval

**Daniel VOLOVICI, Macarie BREAZU,
Adi-Cristina MITEA, Daniel MORARIU**
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The retrieval of digital information from more and more diverse document format types imposes the need for a special attention to the digital representation of documents. For this, data reduction, based on informational measures, represents the theoretical base for the optimization of storage of digital documents, which is even more important in complex multimedia applications. In this paper, besides analyzing data reduction and documents storage, we have also studied the multimedia data models related to the MMDBMS architecture.

These theoretical aspects were applied in practice by developing the SCRIBe – Information System for Processing and Visualization of Old Books Inventory.

Open shelf collection and RFID system

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The paper presents the RFID solutions for open shelves collection used for improving library services for users, making easier the process of finding information they need in a shorter time. It is analyzed the case of Central University Library “Eugen Todoran” from Timișoara that implement the system in the new building, opened in 2008.

The experience of the library shows how using RFID system in the open shelves collection the patrons have more freedom of retrieving useful information and more circulation transactions are done by the patrons with self

check-out and check-in of the documents. The library trained the patrons in using the new library technology, finding information in all kind of documents like books and journals on paper or on line electronic documents.

For the librarians RFID system offers the high speed inventory and quickly identifying items that are not on the proper order on the shelves. All of this helps the library to manage its activities with a reduce number of staff in this crisis time.

Key words: RFID, open shelves, circulation transactions

Section V: Information Science and Digital Library

An analysis of file formats used in digital libraries

**Daniel VOLOVICI, Antoniu PITIC,
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A digital library (DL) is a collection of information that is stored and accessed electronically. The purpose of a digital library is to provide a central location for accessing information on a specific topic. An essential decision that has to be made in the process of designing of a digital library is the choice for file formats to store the information in.

The paper provides an overview on the main concepts surrounding file formats in a digital library environment, and the importance of choosing a file format that can suit the needs of such a system. It also outlines some of the more important issues regarding file format use and compiles a set of criteria for judging the appropriateness of file formats in various contexts.

A few of the most widespread formats are enumerated, alongside a brief description of them. Finally, a few of the issues concerning migration are discussed.

Digital Library for Online Teaching and Learning

Rodica – Anca BELU,
English teacher

The paper's aim is to show the importance of the digital library in our lives, especially for online teaching and learning. First as a student, I have experimented the learning process, and then as a teacher, the teaching and also the learning process in two steps: using only the public and personal library and, afterwards, the computer and the internet. Living in a new age dominated by a much higher technology than centuries ago, teaching and, most of all, learning online is becoming a habit with its advantages and disadvantages.

The paper begins by clarifying the meaning of the phrase „digital library”. The explanations are done for the two words both separately and together.

The second part of the paper discusses the way in which a library is and can be used.

The third part comprises the purpose of using the digital library. The overall content of the paper makes references to the advantages and disadvantages of using the digital library for online teaching and learning.

Evaluating and Organizing Information Resources in the University Libraries

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Mihaela MANOLESCU**
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In the contemporary universities, together with the growth of the information in the scientific field, there had been a multiple plan development of the activities, departments and structures of documentary information.

Built at the interference of some realities and contradictory tendencies - overflow of information, on one hand, and insufficient information, because of the access barriers –linguistic, financial, organizational, etc.- on the other hand - scientific and technical availability, versus incapacity of relation and interrogation, - the structures of documentary information (libraries, documentary centers, etc.) bear the stamp of a less supervised development and the sign of a promising inter - disciplinarity.

Keywords : information, resource, library.

Statistical methods for performance' evaluation of WEB documents classification

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The principal aim of this paper is to make a review of main statistical methods for classifying documents that could be easily adapted in the context of Web document retrieval. After presenting the most popular methods of classification we will also define the most accurate indicators for assessment of classifiers performance.

Thus we will refer to the *recall*, *precision*, *fscore*, *sensitivity* and *specificity*. We will also describe how these indicators can be calculated in the context of Web documents.

Writing Modular Documentation Using Topics. DITA Perspective

Claudiu CHIRU, Eliza ISBAȘOIU
Spiru Haret University

DITA (Darwin Information Typing Architecture) is an XML based information architecture for authoring, producing, and delivering technical information. DITA was originally developed at IBM by Don R. Day, Michael Priestley and others but now is an OASIS standard. DITA basic element is a topic.

A topic is a piece of information that is specific to a single subject, can stand alone and it makes sense in any context. From topic basic element are derived three specialized topics: task, concept and reference. This paper explains the main benefits of using topic based authoring and DITA and presents a DITA solution for computer guide.

Section VI: Effective Learning Environments

The role of Information Literacy in the educational process

Tatiana OPRESCU

Librarian, University Library, Pitești

The information literacy is indispensable to the educational process due to its presence and manifestation, both in the process of gathering information, and in its transformation into knowledge.

The information literacy provides the basis for the implementation of the continuous training principle (lifelong education), offering the support for orientation in the information flow.

Children in the Information Age

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Our world is today dominated by digital media and communication: We are living in the so called information/knowledge society and children are its product. They are computer literated, curious, smart, like Don Tapscott net generation, but they are also Postman’s children, living in a "twilight zone" between illusion and reality. They are surfing the net, they socialize in virtual worlds, being prone to the copy/paste effect. They are drowning in information from many sources: Internet messages, e-mails, social networks, chat rooms, cell phones, magazines, TV.

Though better informed than their parents, in general school results are not satisfactory and the answer to this problem is not yet very clear.

In our paper we are presenting the results of a study on attitudes, values, goals, and practices of 100 students, ages 10-14. One important conclusion is that students participating in the study do not understand the importance of high information quality; critical thinking being less developed.

Based on the study's results we are proposing several methods of instructing information literacy, especially with regards to information evaluation and social responsibility. We also recommend teaching strategies that we do hope will enable today children to become tomorrow better educated and informed graduates.

Computer-Aided Teaching

Cristina-Gabriela MARIN

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The computer is an ideal tool that combines the symbol orientated with the practical learning. The students are not reluctant to using computer in the process of English language learning; the sooner they are allowed to deal with it, especially during English lessons the more natural will they get accustomed to use it efficiently.

The greatest potential for the computer as a reference tools, of course, the Internet when accessing directories and search engines students can look for information.

Promoting reading at primary and gymnasium schooling level

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The present paper elaborates on moulding and maintaining the capacities of improving the pupils' savour for reading in primary schools and gymnasiums. The methods applied by the librarian in order to attract the reader are diverse. There are some activities that aim mainly at decreasing the cultural and psychological distance between pupils and book, through the creation of some situations which motivate reading any types of books, and also the formation of active readers, capable of discerning and having analytical spirit in their attitude towards information.

Key words : reading, book, information science, reader

The Establishment of Information Literacy in Pre-university Education in Romania Strategic Approach

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Gheorghe PUPEZA, Colegiul Tehnic Textil Sibiu

The present paper has been set up as a plea for the establishment, implementation and development of coherent policies on a national, regional and local level in order to form an Information Literacy in the institutions of pre-university education in Romania. The direct beneficiaries are the students, and the indirect, the teachers.

For such an approach, the first to be explained is the general support of such an attempt, namely, framing the Information Literacy in family of the six cultures (areas of competence) that need to be provided for all inhabitants of the world in the XXIth century: the fundamental literacy (writing, reading,, arithmetic), computer literacy, media literacy, distance education and e-learning,, cultural literacy and information literacy.

In this context we should mention the role of the Proclamation of Alexandria (Egypt) in 2005, in terms of establishing the key milestones of the Information Literacy, on the background of information and communication worldwide. We also observe here the role and missions undertaken by UNESCO in this field.

In order to build an accurate image and a framing into the context of the Romanian educational system, the paper continues to present the approach and the steps taken by Romania for establishing the Information Literacy in the pre-university system, through the project "Education for information". It mentions the lack of a clearly defined, consistent and sustainable policy on the part of decision makers, regarding the formation of such a culture in the schools of Romania.

Information Literacy in School Libraries

Adrian Valentin VESEL

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The topic approached brings to interested readers` attention various aspects of practical ways of achieving information literacy in school libraries. Theory and practice work together to provide a coherent and comprehensive image of the impact the school library and the librarian have on helping school-children locate, use and pass on information. The study includes initiation and training activities in the area that are run by us either on a permanent basis or within projects.

The paper is divided into: The Rationale; The Need of Acquiring Information Skills; Information Literacy; How to Improve Information Literacy; Conclusions.

The first part examines the importance of the library in identifying the most effective ways of data collection; the second insists on the imperative of becoming aware of how information is vital at all education levels and it argues that information skills development should start in the first school years. It also establishes the terminology, such as swapping information and information skills and provides the basic working principles for school libraries : being familiar with the school curricula; understanding learner-centered teaching methods and the extent to which users have access to alternative information sources.

The third part gives the definition of „ information literacy” and explains its premises: identifying the nature of the data you require, organizing the data, finding alternative ways and research techniques to acheive the same information. Given the fact that we only have one computer with no Internet access, we discussed mainly the conventional way represented by the school library.

The fourth chapter lists the objectives of information literacy development with an emphasis on learning and data access tools; it also presented data research activities and identified the information resources and the opportunities for further cooperation and learning activities.

The last part underlines the fact that information literacy wich is the the key to life-long learning can improve both teaching and learning, being rightfully referred to by professionals as the surviving skill of the XXI century .

Section VII: Case Studies

The Brukenthal Library and the Information Literacy

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Brukenthal National Museum, Sibiu

The Library of the National Brukenthal Museum from Sibiu is an 18th century cultural institution, one of the most important libraries in Romania. Its founder was Baron Samuel von Brukenthal, Governor of Transylvania (1777-1787). The collections consist in manuscripts, incunabula, old books from the 16th-18th century as well as old Romanian writings. An important part represents also the collection of journals, books from the 19th century and over seven hundred maps.

University Library in Sibiu: from classic to modern, need for Information Literacy

Ioan VIȘA, Elena MĂRGINEAN, Mihaela MANOLESCU,
Library of the “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu

The “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu is a young and dynamic academic institut and so is its library: in 2009 was inaugurated the new library building. With modern facilities and new services offered to its readers, the University Library is one of the most modern university libraries in Romania. If technology is the latest, including the Library Information System based on Rfid technology, services can be improved by the Information Literacy, by organization a training programme for the library staff, teachers, students or readers. First, a course of IT training, then effective courses on IL. This is really an imperative need.

Keywords: university library, user-centered services, information society, information literacy, training requirement, lifelong learning.

The Virtual Library, a necessity for Academic Area

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Most of the traditional libraries are isolated from the information system worldwide.

This paper presents the virtual library and maintains that it will improve the quality of education in the academic area. Case Study: The Library of Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiești.

Creating resources for the local digital bibliography

Corina APOSTOLEANU
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In the last years, the public libraries are more and more attached their traditional structure should go through changes in order to support their integration into the information society environment.

The emergence of the electronic documents, “in competition” with the traditional ones attracted the library in technological areas formerly at a large distance from the librarianship domain, and created the necessity for the libraries and librarians to be adapted to them.

The librarians –information sciences professionals- have also the role to “empower” users in retrieving information in a new environment the users are supposed to consider friendly.

At their turn, users can learn the stages of these new research methods and can be orientated themselves for other future information necessities. The term of *user* implies participation into the information literacy process.

By transforming a traditional document into a digital one, library supports both a necessary preservation process and a more democratic access to information. Digital resources mean an increasing number of up-to-date services for library users.

Constanța County Library owns an important number of old Dobrujan periodicals, both on paper and microfilm support (almost 700 titles), most of them very damaged. Though, the paper samples were reconditioned, their usual manipulation means continuous danger. The same process of degradation

is to be noticed for the microfilms, about 40 years older and some of them in a very bad condition. In order to offer better opportunities to study them for users, the digitization process is more than necessary.

There would be visible advantages both for user and library, if they are changed into digital documents. Users information literacy can be also served by learning how to deal with new technologies in the library and not only.

Organizational Culture between National Culture and Information Society

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Organization culture represents the personality of an organization. The culture of the organization is a set of postulates concerning the collective action, admitted and expressed through symbols that have a value which the members of the company believe in, accept and respect.

Information Literacy and the New Media - Measuring Impact

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A library derives its individuality from the types of materials is designed to collect. We have art libraries, audiovisual libraries, map libraries and similar collections specializing in audiovisual materials. Progress made in communication technology meant changes in the physical media of communications stored by libraries. Each development in the mass media has led to a new type of library: film libraries, newspaper libraries, television libraries and audiovisual librarianship.

This paper aims to study what impact the new media have on the library and information literacy development. Also, we consider different types of literacies, like information literacy, cultural literacy, media literacy or new media literacy.

Because literacy cannot be considered separately from the social and institutional structures in which it is situated, we try to discover the social

involvement of individuals, necessary for promoting particular forms of literacy.

Modern libraries are being redefined as places to get unrestricted access to information in many formats and from many sources. They are extending beyond the walls of a building, because they store material accessible by electronic means, and they provide the assistance of librarians in accessing large amounts of information with a variety of digital tools.

Section VIII: Miscellanea

Information Literacy – a product of Information Society

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Since the informational universe offers new perspectives in what concerns lifelong learning, the Information Society has requested the emergence of the concept *Information Literacy* because, without doubt, it can no longer exist without an informational literacy, without informational mechanisms.

The developing of information literacy is for the present, as well as for the future an important objective of the society.

The consequences of the lack of such a policy, which led to the development and deployment of unilateral activities, especially through the documentation and information centers and their managers, without an equal involvement on the part of school libraries, namely, school librarians.

The proposals presented in this paper take into account the recommendations of UNESCO on the development of national, regional and local policies and strategies, for different fields, including education. Further on, the landmarks of such a policy are set, taking into account the specific conditions of Romania, as well as the stages and objectives achieved in this field to the present.

The strategic approach of this paper refers to the main axes of such an approach, the institutions concerned to carry it out and support it, the role of

these institutions in the implementation of such policies. It also advances a series of proposals on the manner of designing and applying of a documentation policy in schools, and the necessary conditions for achieving the policy, specifying its direct and indirect beneficiaries.

In addition, the paper refers to potential partners (public institutions, NGOs, external partners) that could support, and should be involved, in order to ensure the successful implementation of such policies. It also explains the essential role of associations working in the field of Information Literacy, and of the training for information.

We also focus on issues related to the human resource development in schools and people who, by nature of their profession, directly support the development of Information Literacy and of informational skills in students, respectively documentalists teachers and school librarians.

The management and classification of a document corpus for an EDC

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This article presents a pattern of document classification (web documents and printed documents) suitable for the use of a European Documentation Centre. EDC has a heterogeneous corpus of documents which needs a certain pattern of classification so that it can be used properly. That is why a certain pattern of classification needed to be created, a pattern that can be easily handled by users interested in finding more about the EU. The classification of documents can be made using two main criteria: the format of the document and the scientific/research domain. This adaptable classification pattern is important because it can be used by anyone regardless of the profession or interests.

Communication Link Design Using Optical Fiber

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The explosive growth in data communications has stimulated the development of optical systems for high channel capacity and high bandwidth. Today almost all voice & data traffic is routed through terrestrial and submarine optical fiber link. This paper emphasizes the basic requirements and designs an efficient approach which is certainly optimum considerations for optical fiber communication link and involves the following steps: creating the optical signal involving the use of a transmitter, relaying the signal along the fiber, ensuring that the signal does not become too distorted or weak, receiving the optical signal and converting it into an electrical signal. The experiment used semiconductor laser diode at the transmitting end and a photodiode at the receiving end. This project is relatively low cost and adaptable. An overview of the project is included with representative designs and information.

Keywords: Information generated, Information desired, Laser Diode, Data Transmission, Optical Communications, Infrastructure Information.

Prince or beggar in the mirror of the new information literacy

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Once upon a time, there was the Word and just by pronouncing the names, God simply created the World. It inferred his miraculous power. Pushed by Luciferian instincts, the man transferred his entire existence in the virtual world, helped by only two digits: zero and one.

Texts, sounds, images, an explosion of information accelerated the amazing dynamic of information and communications technology.

It is about a true industry that delivers an essential product in the new society, able to change the entire human existence and redefine the information literacy. The gravity centre of this industry is the desire to create and defeat frontiers imposed by time and space.

The ambition to conquer more freedom and creative force challenges us to e-communicate, to e-learn, to e-business, to explore the world, to e-buy, enjoy and turns any active player of community into a species of cyber sapiens.

The most important fact is that this new reality, through its instruments and environments influences our senses. Good or bad? We don't know! What is certain is that it's inevitable. The man is in danger of losing his creative identity of the virtual world and to turn from prince into a beggar. I am not the only one who's talking about this, there is nothing new. It is just the reality that feels the need to be aware among the numerous surfers exposed.

In my essay I intend to raise the awareness and enable the filters that don't allow us to be kidnapped by the false mirror of freedom and to discover some of the excessive living in the virtual world effects.