



# Developing an Evaluation Framework for Information Literacy Strategies

‘In model approaches, information literacy is prominent in mission and vision statements, strategic plans, and program descriptions. Information literacy is an institution-wide agenda and part of the president’s and provost’s vocabulary.’ (Wilson, 2001)

## Research questions

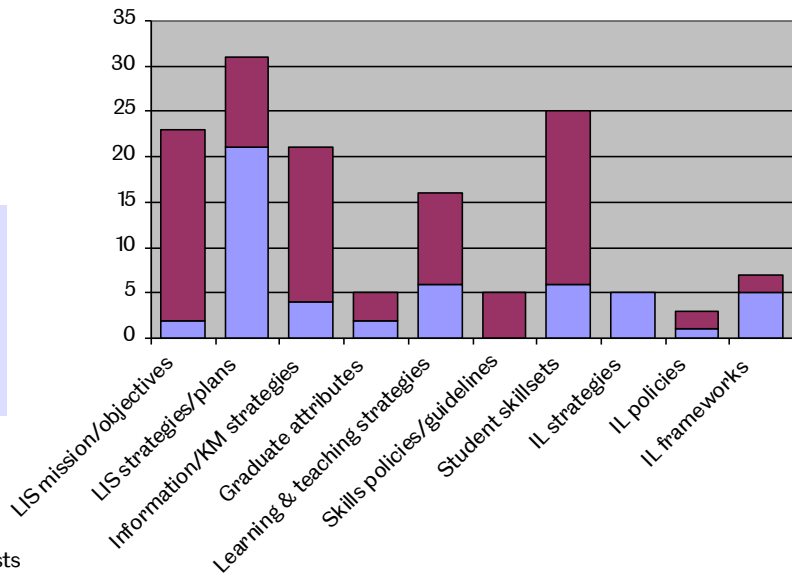
- What is the evidence for institutional engagement with information literacy?
- Where is information literacy located in the institutional strategy portfolio?
- How is information literacy represented in policy and planning documents?

## Related literature

- Information Literacy IQ Test (ILI, 1998)
- Critical Success Factors (Town, 2003)
- Best Practice Characteristics Guidelines (ACRL, 2003; CAUL, 2004)
- Information Literate University Levels of Engagement (Webber & Johnston, 2006)

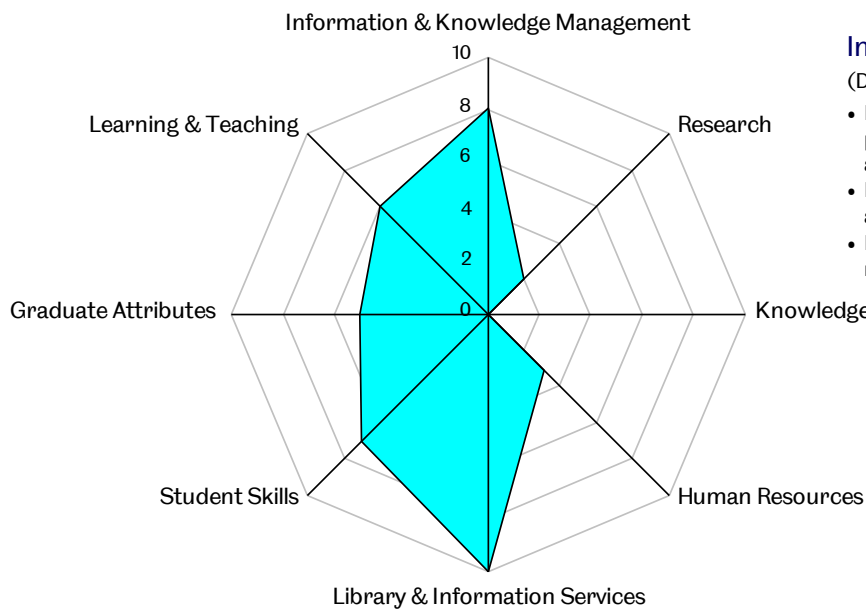
## Key findings

- Poor representation in library missions, but reasonable coverage in strategic plans
- Few examples of graduate attributes, though many references in student skills lists
- Weak representation in research domain, despite specification in Research Council training requirements
- Strong presence in information/knowledge management strategies often followed through to other documents (eg learning and teaching)
- HR and knowledge transfer strategies offer chance to move beyond traditional arena



■ Related terms used (e.g. information skills)  
■ Information literacy explicit

## Domains of engagement (Institutional policies and strategies)



## Evaluation framework

### Indicators of commitment

(Dimensions of strategy statements)

- Positioning – level in hierarchy, prominence in document, priority among issues, collocation with items
- Precision – specificity of goals, attention to detail, clarity of phrasing
- Penetration – extent of coverage, number of documents, strategy linkage

### Further research

- In-depth investigation, using interviews as well as documents
- Comparative studies, involving action research by practitioners
- Other sectors, exploring levels, types and domains of engagement

Corrall, S. M. (2007) ‘Benchmarking strategic engagement with information literacy: towards a working model’ *Information Research*, 12 (4).

## Centre for Information Literacy Research

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