Human Rights and Information Access in a Digital World

A Library and Information Science Perspective

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Internet Access as a Human Right

• Internet access is not sufficient. It needs to be coupled with **Information Literacy** – also recognized as a basic human right – for access to be useful, meaningful, and productive.

• Information literacy education must encompass **Data Literacy** as the key competence for the connected data society.

• Data literacy education should take a **collaborative lifewide** approach to enable and empower people to interact with data in their academic, professional, civic, social, and personal lives.
Information Literacy

• ...encompasses knowledge of one’s information concerns and needs, and the ability to identify, locate, evaluate, organize and effectively create, use and communicate information to address issues or problems at hand

• ...is a prerequisite for participating effectively in the Information Society, and is part of the basic human right of life long learning.

Towards an Information Literate Society

See also
Alexandria Proclamation on Information Literacy and Lifelong Learning, 2005
Paul Sturges & Almuth Gastinger, 2010, Information Literacy as a Human Right.
21C Data Literacy Contexts and Conceptions

Discipline-specific silo-based education

Using Big and Open Data for Common Good (NESTA, 2015)

Using Data to Solve Community Challenges (Sunlight Foundation, 2017)

Reinventing Community Engagement and Empowerment (Data-Pop Alliance, 2015)

Data Literacy in the Workplace (Gemignani et al., 2014)

What about everyday life information seeking?

U G Research Skills – Secondary Data (Herzog, 2016)

PG Research Methods – Primary Data (Smalheiser, 2017)

Data-Driven Decision Making (Mandinach & Gummer, 2016)
ISL: Enabling Data Literacy for Digital Society

A Base Vocabulary:
- Managing information
- Analyzing information
- Applying information and leading change

A Set of Dialects:
- Industry-vertical domains
- Business process domains
- Technical domains

Levels of Proficiency:
- Conversational
- Literacy
- Competency
- Fluency
- Multilingual

Language Development:
- Getting started
- Assessing data literacy
- Proof of concept
- Training and development
- Leading by example

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Fostering Data Literacy and Information as a Second Language: A Gartner Trend Insight Report
From “the ability to read, work with, analyse and argue with data” to “the desire and ability to constructively engage in society through and about data.”

Data Literacy as an Interdisciplinary Multi-literacy Construct (Bhargava et al., 2015)
Working Toward Data Literacy and Data Inclusion

Challenges in designing data literacy programs (Bhargava et al., 2015)

- Making Big Data smaller, on scale where most or many more people are willing and able to engage than is the case today
- Understanding the importance of context and utilizing elements of human-centered design
- Understanding and leveraging the power of words and language in communicating and visualizing data

Actions for library and information professionals as datamediaries

- Put data literacy front and center in digital and information literacy programs
- Move beyond academic and professional applications to build lifewide data fluency
- Collaborate with other stakeholders to pool resources and accelerate development
Open Data Literacy is a collaborative project led by the Information School at the University of Washington in partnership with public institutions that create, manage, and publish open data.

Education
Designing a curriculum for open data literacy and expertise, built on established, successful advances in data curation and data science education.

Research
Conducting research on the representation, organization, and use of open data in the public sector.

Partnerships
Partnering with organizations to provide students with practical field experiences and mentoring, including mechanisms for bringing practice-based knowledge back into the classroom.
**Digital literacy at VT Libraries**

- includes data, information, media, and invention literacies
- comprised of key values built on core competencies
- empowers learners to become engaged global citizens

The goal is to empower learners to navigate the complex digital world as both consumers and creators, enabling them to achieve their personal, academic, and professional goals.