

UNESCO and Information Literacy

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Information Society Division
Communication and Information Sector



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Information
for All
Programme

Defining 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.”

Alexandria Proclamation “Beacons of the Information Society”
High Level Colloquium on Information Literacy and Lifelong Learning Bibliotheca
Alexandria, Egypt, November 2005



Defining information literacy

“Information literacy enables people to **interpret** and **make informed judgments** as users of information sources, as well as to **become producers** of information in their own right. Information literate people are able to **access** information about their health, their environment, their education and work, empowering them to **make critical decisions** about their lives, e.g. in taking more responsibility for their own health and education.”



Information literacy training at Pali, India

UNESCO's Information for All
Programme

Information literacy – A set of skills

Information literacy is the capacity of people to:

- Recognize their information needs
- Locate and access information
- Evaluate the quality of information
- Make effective and ethical use of information
- Create and communicate information

World Summit on the Information Society

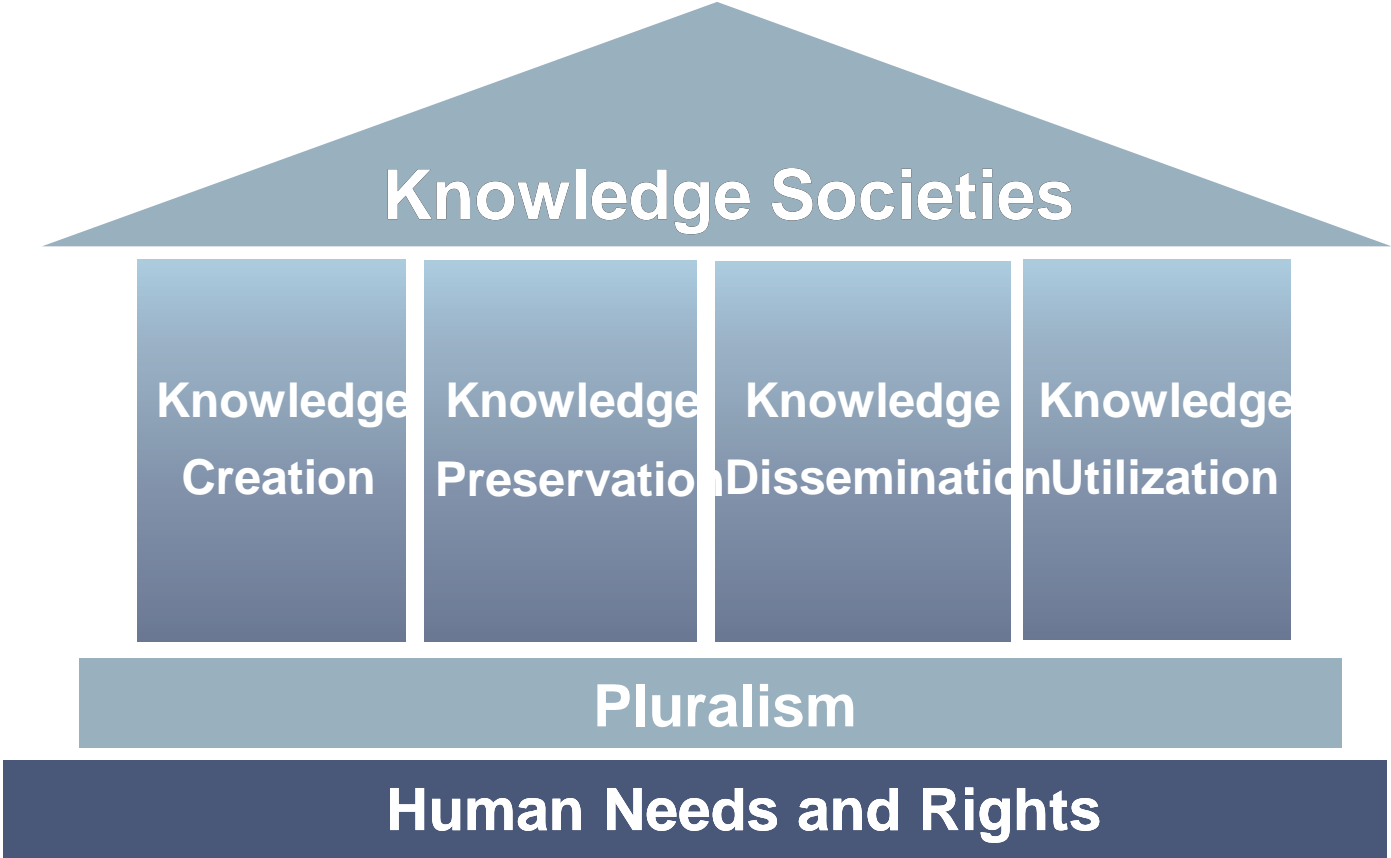
- “Each person should have the opportunity to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge in order to understand, participate actively in, and benefit fully from, the Information Society”

Geneva Plan of Action
World Summit on the Information Society 2003

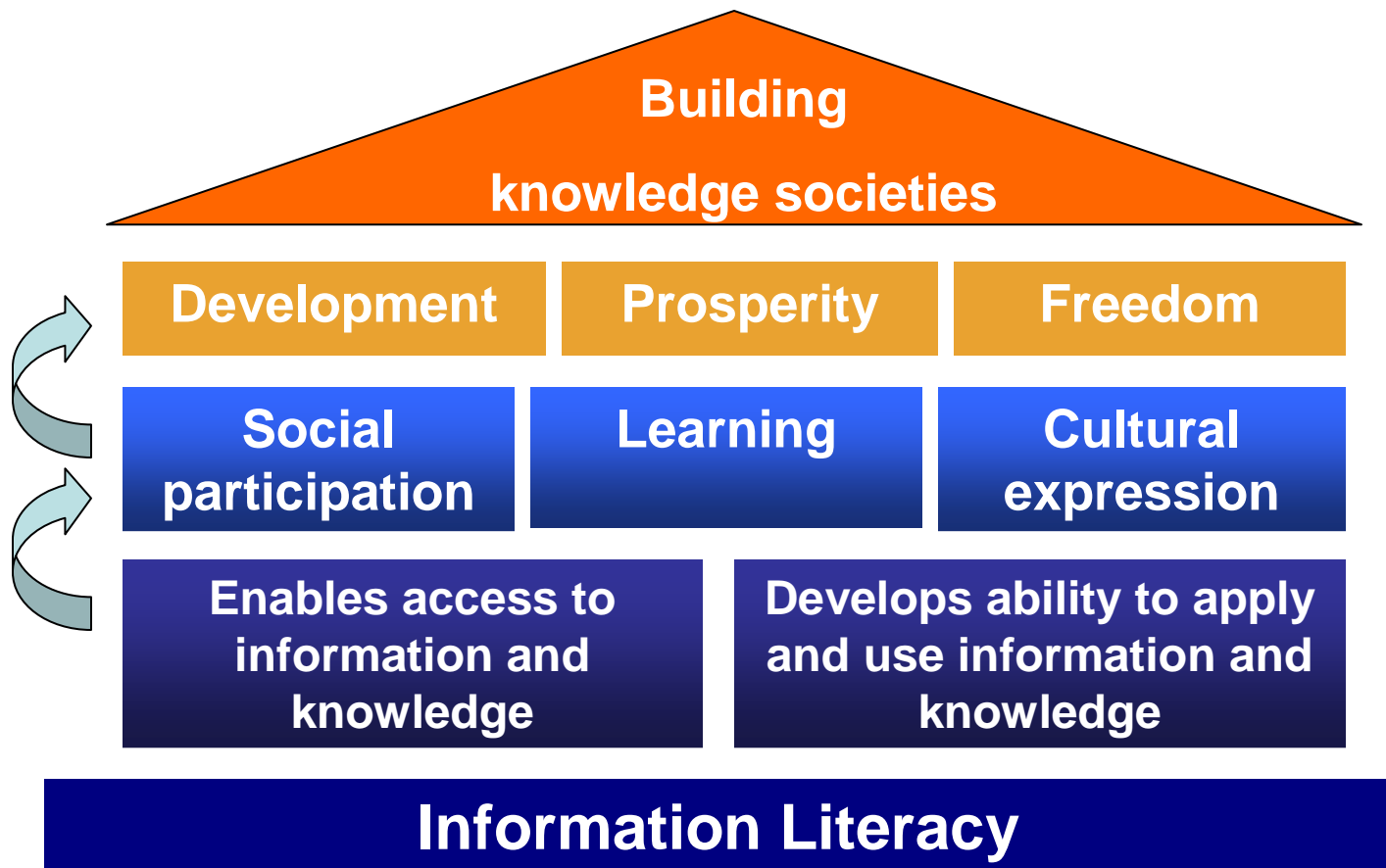
- “We reaffirm our desire and commitment to build a people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, where people everywhere can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge...”

Tunis Commitment
World Summit on the Information Society 2005

UNESCO's Knowledge Societies



Information literacy and Knowledge Societies



UNESCO's mission and strategy

Fostering information literate societies

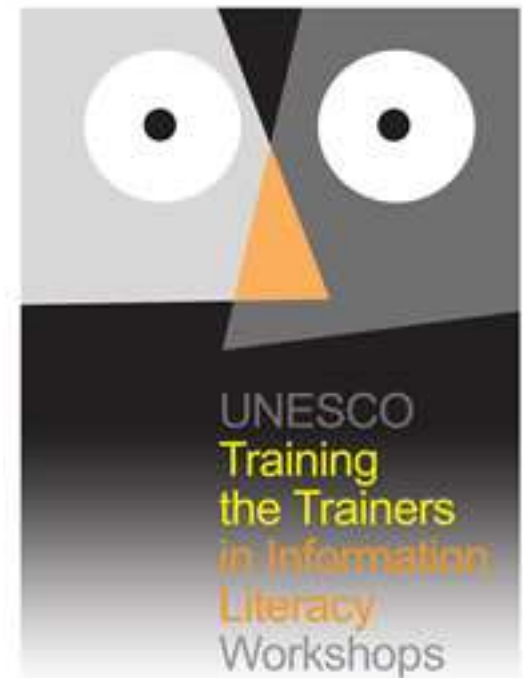
- Developing and promoting strong theoretical basis
- Supporting the development of an international alliance for information literacy
- Encouraging the development of national information literacy policy
- Building capacity of people in information literacy
- Monitoring the development of information literate societies

Key activities

Objectives	Activities
Theoretical basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information for All Programme (IFAP) ▪ Understanding information literacy: a primer
An international alliance for information literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information literacy logo contest
National information literacy policy (planned for 2008-2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teacher training curricula on information and media literacy ▪ Information and media literacy toolkit
Building capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IFAP information literacy projects ▪ Information literacy Training the Trainers (TTT) workshops
Monitoring developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information literacy state of the art report ▪ Information literacy indicators

Example - Training the Trainers in Information Literacy

- University of the West Indies, **Jamaica**, 30 May - 1 June 2008
- IFLA 2008 World Congress, **Canada**, 8-9 August 2008
- Universiti Teknologi Mara, **Malaysia**, 11-14 August 2008
- University of Tallinn, **Estonia**, 21-23 August 2008
- Hacettepe University, **Turkey**, 3-5 September 2008
- University of Cape Town, **South Africa**, 4-6 October 2008
- Wuhan University, **China**, October 2008
- Regional Library of Andalucia, **Spain**, 27-30 October 2008
- Bibliotheca Alexandrina, **Egypt**, 4-6 November 2008
- Punjabi University, **India**, 5-7 November 2008
- Pontifical Universidad Catolica Peru, **Peru**, 22-24 January 2009



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Example – IFAP information literacy project



Information Literacy Capacity-Building for Vietnamese Academic Librarians

Example - IFAP information literacy project



Secondary Schools' Participation in Information Literacy Programmes in Ghana

Partners

- International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)
- UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)
- Universities and libraries around the world
- Individual information literacy experts

Resources

- www.unesco.org/webworld/ifap
 - “Understanding Information Literacy: A Primer”
 - “Towards Information Literacy Indicators”
 - Programme of the TTT workshops
 - Projects funded by IFAP
- www.infolitglobal.info
 - International Information Literacy Resources Directory
 - Guidelines for the logo contest
 - Information literacy state of the art report