

## **National Forum on Information Literacy**

### **Meeting Summary**

**January 28, 2005**

**Meeting Host: National Education Association**

#### **In attendance:**

Patricia Breivik, Chair  
Marilyn Arnone, Creative Media Solutions  
Amy Borgstrom, U.S. Department of Commerce/Technology Opportunities Program  
Lisa Boyd, National Library of Medicine  
Barbara Cambridge, American Association for Higher Education  
Mary Chute, Institute of Museum and Library Services  
Marjorie Cook, SIL International  
Mary Ellen Davis, Association of College and Research Libraries  
Al Frascella, National Council for the Social Studies  
Frank Gallagher, Cable in the Classroom  
Craig Gibson, Association of College and Research Libraries  
Steven Gilbert, TLT (Teaching and Learning with Technology) Group  
Susan van Gundy, National Science Digital Library  
Trudi Bellardo Hahn, National Commission on Libraries and Information Science  
Sarah Hamrick, Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies  
Amy Harbur, Council on Libraries and Information Resources  
Barbara Holton, U.S. Department of Education/National Center for Educational Statistics  
Woody Horton  
Lana W. Jackman, Melange Information Services  
Lorna D. Jones, Melange Information Services  
Flora Krasnovsky, FMK Associates  
Kelly McCarthy, National School Boards Association  
Hannelore Rader, University of Louisville  
Sylvia Seidel, National Education Association  
Greta Southard, Public Library Association  
Sharon Gray Weiner, Vanderbilt University  
Karen Zill, Alliance for a Media Literate America

#### **1. Health Information Literacy**

The opening discussion on “Health Information Literacy” was led by Lisa Boyd, Consumer Health Librarian of the National Network of the National Library of Medicine. (Lisa is also Federal Project Officer at the National Network).

Lisa described and demonstrated Medline Plus, which is NLM's answer to health literacy needs and the demonstrated social need for consumer health information on the web. Medline Plus is for the average consumer, is organized into 650 health topics, contains information on symptoms and offers diagnoses, and offers interactive tutorials with audio, with quizzes and answers.

The interactive tutorials use vocabulary and concepts readily understood by the average consumer (using 7<sup>th</sup>—8<sup>th</sup> grade reading level). Other features include "Go Local": health resources organized by state, down to county level. There are "health legal issues" connected with diagnostic tutorials—a disclaimer is present with these tutorials about "not being a doctor". A tutorial for Medline Plus web site is available.

Other initiatives of the National Network:

1. contracts with eight academic health science centers around with country, which enables free classes on health information literacy to be offered.
2. "Senior Health": joint project between NLM and the National Institutes on Aging: this is a voice-activated web site on a range of health topics important to senior citizens.
3. NLM attempts to help public libraries deal with the issue of authoritative Health information for their communities
4. Projects working with community and faith-based organizations (e.g., the Medical Center of South Carolina places computers in area churches)
5. "Tribal Connection": health information on the Web for Native Americans
6. Docline: Interlibrary Loan system funded by NLM (but licensing agreements prohibit resource sharing)
7. NLM's cooperative programs with international organizations
8. NLM-sponsored health literacy projects for non-computer users (i.e., low-income populations)
9. "Ask a" Service/Virtual Reference—24-hour reference service (Ask Cosmo)

Additional comments:

--How well do search engines like Google provide links to health information, particularly health information from non-commercial, nonprofit organizations?

Google has a foundation to help nonprofit organizations make their sites and search results more visible.

--In public schools and public libraries, some filtering software definitely eliminates some valuable health information.

## **2. Approval of Meeting Summary**

The Meeting Summary from October 2004 was approved as read.

### 3. Member Reports

#### National Center for Education Statistics—Barbara Holton

Barbara described the two library surveys distributed by NCES, the School Library Media Survey and the Academic Library Survey. The newer Academic Library Survey contains a question relating to information literacy (institutional commitment to information literacy, description of infrastructure supporting information literacy, etc.)

#### National Commission on Libraries and Information Science—Trudy Bellardo Hahn

NCLIS has instituted a Blue Ribbon Consumer Information Award recognizing health information usage in local communities.

#### U.S. Department of Commerce/Technology Opportunities Program—Amy Borgstrom

Since 1994, the Technology Opportunities Program has given over 600 awards for innovative local community projects. Some of these awards support telecomm and telemedicine projects. In the next fiscal year, there will be no appropriation of monies for the TOP program.

#### Council on Libraries and Information Resources—Amy Harbur

CLIR is a privately funded organization.

Amy described the NDIIPP (National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program), and discussed CLIR's partnership with the Library of Congress and other organizations on digital preservation issues.

CLIR has a forthcoming study of the economics of copyright.

#### National School Boards Association—Kelly McCarthy

NSBA's mission focused on excellence in public school leadership. One important program sponsored by NSBA for school administrators is the Educational Technology Program.

The NSBA conference this year has the theme of "wise and innovative uses of technology."

#### Creative Media Solutions—Marilyn Arnone

Marilyn described the STARS web site (a storybook approach to information evaluation), and the SOS Project; accompanying the latter is a 24 minute video showing the "Ten Best Reasons for Becoming Library Media Specialists."

#### Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies—Sarah Hamrick

Sarah is interested in how information evaluation and assessment can be implemented with users who have disabilities.

#### Institute for Museums and Library Services—Mary Chute

IMLS responds to a variety of other organizations and their projects.

Grants sponsored by IMLS: Program for Librarians of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; Proposals for Special Librarians in the workforce; and Partnerships with PBS (one recent project highlighted with this project is the Maine State Museum—Maine PBS collaboration showcasing Maine history).

University of Louisville—Hannelore Rader

Hannelore described her international consulting and advocacy work with information literacy. Germany now has discovered the importance of information literacy, and various South American countries are also showing interest. Emerging interest is developing in various Asian countries, including China, as well as South Africa.

IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations) now has a section on information literacy.

The annual LOEX Conference, started 33 years ago, is a popular U.S. conference on information literacy. This year, LOEX has established an enrollment cap of 270.

ETS (Educational Testing Service), in partnership with various academic institutions, is implementing a test on information competence, targeted to undergraduate populations. There will be a “summit meeting” in assessment data resulting from this ETS test.

The TLT (Teaching and Learning with Technology) Group—Steve Gilbert

Steve described the various online workshops co-sponsored by the TLT Group and ACRL. These comprise an “online institute” incorporating synchronous collaboration, audio, and other features. There have been challenges for some participants with low-bandwidth, low tech connections (partly remedied through toll-free telephone calls connected, via a low-cost device, to webcast sessions).

Public Library Association—Greta Southard

Greta described PLA’s background and her interest in developing a greater focus on information literacy among public libraries. Recent initiatives include those on “Emergent Literacy” (for parents of pre-kindergarten children), and the “Smartcard” campaign, focusing on the value of the library card.

National Science Digital Library—Susan Van Gundy

The NSDL provides tools and resources for librarians and faculty. Created by the National Science Foundation as a free online library of exemplary resources for science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and resources. The goal of NSDL is to organize high-quality digital materials and make them available to teachers, educators, and researchers in both private and public institutions and at all educational levels.

NSDL has specialized “pathways portals” for various audiences. For example, there is a math portal for the undergraduate level; and one for middle school students that collects and presents resources in math, science, and technology. Another portal presents resources in computational science.

The NSDL is interested in building partnerships with other members of the Forum; a current RFP is available.

Melange Information Services, Inc.--Lana Jackman & Lorna Jones

Melange Information Services has received an NIH grant (small business grant category) to conduct research on a technical behavioral solution for low income individuals with Type 2 Diabetes. In the U.S. 18.5 million people have diabetes. The engagement and involvement of the family in the care of these individuals is crucial, and self-care management is also crucial. The research conducted by this project will focus on the role of community health centers.

Woody Horton

Woody described his work with the International Leadership Conference, as background to a discussion of the UNESCO/IFLA sponsorship of the upcoming conference in Alexandria, Egypt.

American Association for Higher Education—Barbara Cambridge

Barbara described AAHE's two forthcoming conferences: the AAHE "Trendsetters" conference, to be held in March in Atlanta; and the AAHE Assessment conference, to be held in June. Information about the conferences can be found at: [www.aahe.org](http://www.aahe.org). AAHE will also support the upcoming international conference on information literacy.

AAHE has identified two audiences who are crucial in developing support for information literacy: (1) accreditation officials with accrediting bodies, who must know what to look for in site visits and in institutional documents; and (2) staff persons in policymakers' offices (in government).

Association of College and Research Libraries—Mary Ellen Davis

ACRL is currently working with subject sections of ACRL (dealing with science, law, literature) on discipline-specific adaptations of information literacy standards.

The National ACRL Conference will be held in Minneapolis in April. In addition, there is to be a "virtual conference" consisting of eight sessions from ACRL>

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Literacy Project is a collaboration between ASCLA, PLA, and ACRL; a toolkit resulting from this collaboration will be ready before the summer ALA conference.

Cable in the Classroom—Frank Gallagher

The original focus of this organization was television. However, there is the current understanding that media literacy is much broader.

Cable in the Classroom is a member of Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills; has done collaborative projects with the National PTA; has published reports and given awards on media and information literacy.

National Education Association—Sylvia Seidel

Sylvia described her work with the professional development school network. She is very interested in infusing information literacy into these partnerships. Currently underway is a five-

year study of teacher quality through the network. Teachers need extensive mentoring, and a strong support network, in order to stay in the profession.

Sylvia is also the NEA liaison to NCATE.

#### Alliance for a Media Literate America—Karen Zill

The Alliance's conference will be held in June in San Francisco. Featured speakers include: David Buckingham, of the Centre for the Study of Children, Youth, and Media (of London); Gloria Tristani, former FCC Commissioner, and Alan November, Founder of Building Learning Communities. There will be a variety of panels and individual speakers on media and information literacy, and also on health information literacy.

The "Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills" project will hold a research summit in fall 2006 on effects of media education.

#### SIL International—Marjorie Cook

SIL International (Summer Institute of Linguistics) works with cultures/societies without written languages. The web site is [www.sil.org](http://www.sil.org).

#### Vanderbilt University—Sharon Gray Weiner

Sharon is Director of Peabody Library at Vanderbilt University. She is interested in the work of the Forum because her clientele are very focused on interdisciplinary approaches to research.

#### National Council for Social Studies—Al Frascella

Revitalization of civic education is currently the main goal of the NCSS, through working with K-12 classrooms teachers in such fields as history, civics, and economics, and with faculty from Schools of Education. The next NCSS national conference will be held in Kansas City.

### **4. High Level Colloquium on Information Literacy and Lifelong Learning**

Background to this conference: in September 2003, the Prague [International Leadership Conference] was held. Twenty-three countries were represented, with functional expertise drawn from: learning and education; economic development; government and citizenship; and health and human services.

A second stage conference is now being planned, to focus on information literacy coupled with "lifelong learning." This will still be an "experts" conference; a larger public conference is not under consideration at this point. IFLA and AAHE are co-sponsoring this second stage conference, which will be held just before the World Summit in Tunis. A larger, more open "third stage" conference may be held in the future.

The process for organizing this second stage conference involves the following: UNESCO's 187 member countries will receive, through their Ministries of Education or comparable governmental agencies, more specific recommendations about models, strategies, etc., for information literacy.

The conference will be organized around six world regions, each region designating a team leader and team members, with similar “tracks” or themes to those of the Prague Conference (education/higher education/K-12; health and human services; government and citizenship; and economic development). Guidelines will be developed for selection of team members; team leaders will be drawn quite possibly from participants in the Prague conference.

## **5. International Alliance for Information Literacy/Other International news**

There was discussion of options for various “umbrella groups” for various world regions to advance the information literacy agenda.

Other news:

--A Russian reading organization is sponsoring a competition for the best information literacy lesson plan, with a summary of best materials to be made on a multimedia disk. This competition is held in the Pskov region, according to Valentina Antipova

--In Scandinavia, librarians and others are holding discussions about options for sustaining the NORDINFOLIT network; Christina Tovote reports that the Nordic Council of Ministers will be reviewing the status of NORDINFOLIT very soon.

--In the Netherlands, Albert Boekhorst, who teaches a mastercourse on “Information Literacy: Theory and Practice”, is starting a working group on information literacy

--in Canada, CARL (Canadian Association of Research Libraries) has formed a working group to study the possibility of setting up a portal for the purpose of sharing information literacy best practices among Canadian universities. Also, there is interest in Canada in creating its own national forum on information literacy.

--UNESCO has approved setting up an international clearinghouse on information literacy and lifelong learning; in the UNESCO program “Information for All”, information literacy is the first priority.

Other:

--The Children’s Partnership Report is forthcoming.

## **6. May Meeting**

The next meeting of the Forum will be held on May 13.

Topics will include the ETS assessment instrument for ICT skills; and the proposed International Conference (High Level Colloquium).