

# INFORMATION National Forum on Information Literacy

## NATIONAL FORUM ON INFORMATION LITERACY JANUARY 27, 2006 MINUTES

### National Forum's January, 2006 Meeting – Key Points

- Dr. Anne M. Perrault's presentation on the development of a required pre-service teachers' information literacy course at the University of South Carolina.
- Alexandria update from Woody Horton and Patricia Senn Breivik and the growing involvement of UNESCO around the world with the implementation and funding of regional information literacy meetings.
- The importance of social inclusion (NGO's) and economic development as major outcomes of the Alexandria meeting.
- Establishment of a UNESCO funded Information Literacy and Lifelong Learning Clearinghouse in Slovenia; a workshop on Information Literacy Initiatives in Central and South East Europe also being held in Slovenia.
- Impending ETS/ICT Skills Test Summit tentatively planned for mid-October.
- Results of an informal national information literacy survey presented.
- Release of DOE's NCLB "Improving Literacy through School Libraries" Evaluation Report.
- The need to develop a strategic planning process was discussed. Members encouraged to forward ideas and/or comments. More details available at the May meeting.
- The University of the Virgin Islands/National Forum collaboration on an information literacy professional development proposal submitted to IMLS in Dec. 2006. More details available on Forum and UVI's website in March, 2006.
- A wide range of diverse IL and/or IL related activities' reports given, including those submitted from several of the nodes of the International Alliance.

The Alexandria Proclamation Report will be available on the Forum website ([www.infolit.org](http://www.infolit.org)) by mid-March.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 5, 2006, 10:00am-3:00pm

**National Cable and Telecommunications Association\***  
**1724 Massachusetts Ave., NW**  
**Washington, D.C.**

Thanks again to Frank Gallagher and the staff at Cable in the Classroom for graciously hosting this month meeting. We sincerely appreciate all efforts to support the mission of the National Forum on Information Literacy.

Any questions or concerns re: the January, 2006 minutes, please contact Ms. Lorna D. Jones at [lornajones@melangeinfo.com](mailto:lornajones@melangeinfo.com) and send a "cc" to Sharon and myself. Thanks!

# INFORMATION

## National Forum on Information Literacy

### **January 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting Agenda**

1. Dr. Ann M. Perrault, Assistant Professor at the School of Library and Information Science at the University of South Carolina. She will discuss information literacy education for future teachers and the information literacy course for undergraduates that is required at USC.
2. Update on November 6-9 High Level Colloquium on Information Literacy and Lifelong Learning in Alexandria, Egypt. Dr. Patricia Senn Breivik and Dr. Woody Horton
3. Update on the International Alliance for Information Literacy. Dr. Patricia Senn Breivik
4. Members' Reports. In order to best share information on your organization with other members, please email a copy of your report to me at [s.weiner@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:s.weiner@vanderbilt.edu). This is particularly helpful for members who cannot attend the meeting.
5. Dates and topics for May and September 2006 meetings.
6. Other

#### **In Attendance:**

Patricia Senn Breivik, Chair Emeritus  
Lana Jackman, Mélange Information Services, Co-Chair  
Marilyn Arnone, Center for Digital Libraries  
Beverly Becker, American Association of School Librarians  
Lisa Boyd, National Library of Medicine  
Barbara Cambridge, National Council of Teachers of English  
Kelly Denson, Educational Testing Service  
Elizabeth Edwards  
Al Frascella, National Council of Social Studies  
Frank Gallagher, Cable in the Classroom  
Steve Gilbert, Teaching and Learning with Technology Group  
Trudi Bellardo Hahn, National Council on Libraries and Information Science  
Woody Horton  
Lorna Jones, Mélange Information Services  
Barbie Keiser  
Susan Malbin, Institute of Museum and Library Services  
Jo Maralit, National Institute for Literacy  
Doug Newcomb, Special Libraries Association.  
Anne Perrault, University of South Carolina  
Catherine Quinlan, University of British Columbia

Frank Stielow, American Military Unit  
Wanda Whitney, National Commission for Library and Information Services  
Stanley Winkler, Society for Applied Learning Technology  
Karen Zill, Alliance for a Media Literate America

Minutes: October 2005 minutes deferred until the May 2006 meeting.

Dr. Jackman opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of the return of Dr. Patricia Breivik, Chair Emeritus. Jackman briefly outlined and revised the agenda for the session. Jackman introduced the guest speaker:

**Dr. Anne Marie Perrault, Assistant Professor,  
School of Library and Information Science/University of South Carolina.**

Dr. Perrault was asked to highlight a course in information literacy which is required of all elementary preservice students at the University of South Carolina it offers a model for other colleges of teacher education. Her presentation entitled - "Developing a Pre-Service Teachers' Information Literacy Course," outlined a mini SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis for the course's research and implementation processes. Perrault's power point presentation (see Forum website) summarized a step-by-step approach to the course's development and its initial outcomes.

Key Points highlighted:

- Utilize research to inform course content
- End users view online tools for daily planning as significant.
- Digital Libraries under utilized
- Understanding student critical
- Understanding the changing nature of teaching and learning practices
- Embracing the imperative for advanced IL Skills.
- Developing and expanding a baseline for T & L resources essential
- Ongoing feedback – a requirement.

Perrault emphasized the importance of creating models and mentors for pre-service teachers. Curriculum was identified; it became the nucleus for course development. In determining how information literacy should be placed within the curriculum, advising faculty was questioned as to the point of need.

The Q&A session was very lively.

Breivik pointed out, so far as she knew, that the University of South Carolina is the first school in the nation that requires elementary pre-service students to take a course in information literacy. It can be a model for other campuses. She reported that Sylvia Sidell of NEA, forum representatives and Carol Smith of AACTE NEA, are working with other Forum members to further NCATE's understanding of and commitment to information literacy. The international community is reviewing this issue as well and it would be

unfortunate if the USA fell behind other countries in preparing students for success in an Information Society.

Carole Sund, National Educational Association--- states that the current standards ignore school librarians. Perrault stated that her sources came from existing information and not from Google.

“Best Practices are not being utilized”. Jackman added that through her current teaching experiences, pre-service and experienced teachers are developing an appreciation for information literacy skills. Electronic syllabuses need to be developed for parents. Comment made that inner city parents have significant challenges. Jackman stated that parents must be educated. Actionable strategies for teachers to develop contextual skills have to be developed that are inclusive of broad base social issues that impact parents on a daily basis.

Bobbie Kaiser pointed out that it is essential for other disciplines to be included in these discussions and highlighted as an example the insurance industry. Perrault observed that Knowledge Management trend is waning. The pendulum is swinging back to IL. The focus on IL is charged by the need for increased software skills according to Carole Sund.

Members Report:

#### **Co-Chair of NFIL, Dr. Lana W. Jackman:**

Jackman reported the results of the informal survey conducted on line by herself and Sharon Weiner, utilizing the Forum’s list serve, to obtain a sense of what is going on locally with Information Literacy around the globe. The results will be posted on the Forum’s website. Clearly the community is overwhelmed with the diversity of their responsibilities. However, a strong emphasis was articulated on the need for more professional development opportunities. Jackman recommended that the membership review the recently published DOE literacy report entitled “Education for All”. An opportunity to develop a collaborative professional development conference proposal for entry & mid level librarians and other information management professionals with the University of the Virgin Islands for IMLS support has been researched and submitted. The conference is scheduled to take place December 2006 in the US Virgin Islands.....more details will be forthcoming via the Forum’s website February 2006.

#### **Alexandrina Meeting - Dr. Woody Horton & Dr. Patricia Breivik:**

Horton gave an overview of the Alexandrina Expert’s meeting held in Alexandria, Egypt in November 2005. UNESCO has institutionalized Information Literacy and has made it a top priority in its Decade of Literacy within its Information for All Programme. This is clearly a tremendous accomplishment resulting directly from Forum’s activities over the last 5 years. Woody thanked the Forum for its leadership role and now felt that the next steps are within the realm of the developing nations. The Forum would continue to be of

assistance but the next stage of activities remains with developing nations. Woody also stressed that there is not one model of development to follow nor should there be. The next steps have to be engaged base on the context of the developing nation in particular. Woody stressed the importance of the learning that still remains essential for Americans, particularly around the issue of oral literacy. The nation of Finland has integrated information literacy into its overall political, economic and social culture. Worldwide it is the only nation that has that distinction. Our own State Department still requires assistance in informing its structure of the priority that this issue possesses worldwide.

Breivik acknowledged the diversity of the experts present. The meeting at Alexandria expanded on the work that was generated in Prague. More experts were engaged from different regions. The concept of lifelong learning was a major theme. The meeting in Alexandria was instrumental in evolving UNESCO's vision from Information For All to Information Literacy For All. Another major concern was the still vast numbers of the "have not's" and how to include them into the deliberation activities moving forward. Information Literacy is a learning issue, not a technology issue and can serve as the bridge for social inclusion as its efforts gain momentum worldwide. The meeting highlighted the critical nature of attending to the contextual challenges of different countries and communities.

Colloquium suggestions to move forward:

- Policy makers must be targeted. Finland is the only example to date of that success.
- Information Literacy must recruit champions outside of the realm of Information and Library Science. NGO's must be targeted as partners.
- Economic development is a key factor in the promotion of IL, particularly in the political realm.
- The International Alliance for Information Literacy needs to be expanded and strengthened.

UNESCO has a funding program, which can assist region/sectors in promoting IL. It is looking to support up to 4 regional meetings with a view toward a World Congress of Information Literacy in 2007-2008.

The broadly based membership of NFIL is the model used in the Prague and Alexandria meeting where experts participated from sectors including, education, economic development, health and human services and government/citizenship.

Breivik requested that Barbara Cambridge, National Council of Teachers of English share her experience with the Alexandria Colloquium:

Cambridge was a member and a planning strategist the educational sector. According to her, she noted that each of the sectors was more detailed in their focus than in Prague and more specific recommendations were developed. More specific to education; recommendations included. Effective Best Practices were requested and excellent discussion and communication across sectors.

- Pedagogy practices should be based on evidenced based practice.
- Active pedagogical practices need to be well supported by IL: formally and informally.
- Push for assessment and accreditation.
- Progress on specificity needs to be institutionalized
- Efforts underway to create science literacy.

**National Library of Medicine, Lisa Boyd:**

NLM works with public libraries and librarians to bring in medical resources such as Medline as well as environmental topics into the library experience. Medline is now on line for free. Institute of Medicine is working with libraries to determine what are quality health information resources for their patrons. Courses, facilitated by NLM staff, for librarians are available on line.

**Barbie Keiser:**

Keiser reported she is working with developing nations and USAID. UNESCO is funding an IL project in Slovenia. It will be an IL & Lifelong Learning clearinghouse.

**National Council of Teachers of English, Barbara Cambridge:**

**No Child Left Behind Act** generating organizational interest in reviewing recommendations for improvements to the act. National Teachers Association (NTA) is looking at capacity building issues for teachers. This would be a great opportunity to integrate IL concerns during this process. NTA submitted proposal to McArthur Foundation to develop educational materials to assist with the above.

**Special Libraries Association, Doug Newcomb:**

Sixty-five percent of its membership is represented by the corporate community. This organization is engaged in activities that focus on library principles, professional development activities and their relationship to public policy. SLA is also working with the Library Copy Write Alliance in response to the Broadcast Flag Initiative-“a set of status bits (or "flags") sent in the data stream of a digital television program that indicates whether or not it can be recorded, or if there are any restrictions on recorded content. The stated intention of the broadcast flag was to prevent copyright infringement, but many have asserted that broadcast flags interfere with the fair use rights of the viewing public.” Doug urged the membership to get involved.

**National Institute for Literacy, Jo Maralit:**

Maralit discussed the organizations services and emphasized the need for Information Literacy and Lifelong Learning to be more integrated.

**National Council on Libraries and Information Science, Trudi Bellardo Hahn:**

Hahn discussed NCLIS activities, highlighting its Librarian Award program, its Health Literacy Library Awards Initiative and its library and disaster preparedness activities.

**Univ of British Columbia, Catherine Quinlan:**

Research Libraries has passed a policy on Information Literacy...Now in a position to negotiate federally an IL policy.

**National Council of Social Studies, Al Frascella:**

Frascella reported that he recently developed an alliance with the National Archives on teaching with primary documents. Al emphasized his efforts on turning the tide against the marginalization of social studies in the schools. States have dropped social studies courses. Children are entering the 5th grade without civic education. The subject of geography has suffered tremendously.

**Alliance for Media Literate America, Karen Zill:**

Zill discussed AMLA's educational mission. They recently conducted a successful conference which attracted health educators. The organization mobilized a classroom resource for Hurricane Katrina victims. In December, they will be leading a research summit that will examine the effects of teaching media literacy and its efficacy.

**NEA, Carole Sund:**

Sund described NEA's work with two nonprofit groups to secure books for victims in the Gulf. NEA has developed a partnership with Dollar General which is committed to the issue of literacy. Continues to support the Project for the 21<sup>st</sup> century activities.

**Syracuse University's Center for Digital Libraries Creative Media Solutions, Marilyn Arnone:**

Arnone discussed SOS Information Literacy Resources as a unique search engine. Discussed Ruth Small's project which is preparing librarians for urban schools. Engaged in research on Middle Schools reviewing issues such as motivation, perceive skills and self-determination. Utilizing both a quantitative and qualitative approach.

**Teaching and Learning with Technology Group, Steve Gilbert:**

Gilbert's organization is working with small technical gadgets that connect to the Internet. Formed an advisory council, hoping to develop more opportunities for collaboration. Developing an online workshop dealing with the topic of information overload.

**American Military Unit, Fred Stielow:**

Stielow manages a university on line program for the Military that contains 5 tutorials on IL ad LLL. Also provides Deep Web Serching courses. Working on a virtual library to teach Information Literacy. He is exploring avenues on how to get faculty more involved and how to teach educators...researching the issue of incentives.

**Elizabeth Edwards:**

Edwards is the Robinson Elementary School's Media library Specialist and is developing resources on e-books, databases, noodle tools etc.

**American Association of School Librarians:  
Beverly Becker representing Julie Walker**

Beverly expressed her concerns that 65% of the education dollars should be earmarked for the classroom.

**Cable in the Classroom, Frank Gallagher:**

Gallagher updated the group on the Cable Foundation and its current activities. The foundation is engaged in offering courses to Katrina students on line, its annual awards program and its partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> century collaboration.

**ETS, Kelly Denson:**

Denson with Breivik briefly outlined efforts underway to hold a meeting (resulting from the ETS/ICT Skills Test Summit) for policy makers to think strategically on policy matters related to data that will soon be available on student's ICT/IL skill levels. A high day "summit" on a Monday in October is being planned and a number of Forum organizations are sponsoring this effort. Suggestions are welcome and should be sent to Breivik. Email:breivikp@bellsouth.net.

**Institute of Musueum and Library Services, Susan Malbin:**

Malbin updated the group on IMLS funding opportunities that could be information literacy focused.

**Summary Comments:**

Breivik briefly highlighted the work of Americorp and a possible collaboration with that organization. She discussed her conversations with the Military Library Association on Information Literacy. She also reported that Spain was having a meeting in February to consider developing a national IL policy. Breivik also discussed the need for strategic planning. She requested that the membership consider "next steps" and forward the feedback at their earliest convenience. Jackman adjourned the meeting at 2:00 pm.

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## National Forum on Information Literacy

### **The International Alliance – News in Brief - Information Literacy Around The World**

TRANSLATIONS OF THE ALEXANDRIA 2005 PROCLAMATION AVAILABLE AT  
[http://www.infolit.org/International\\_Colloquium/](http://www.infolit.org/International_Colloquium/)

Australia – Dr. Christine Bruce

- Information literacy research - Middleton, Bruce, Partridge, and Edwards 2005 report entitled “Developing a research culture and scholarship plan in information studies”. QUT School of Information Systems.

Nepal - Krishna Mani Bhandary

- An article on Information Literacy and Librarian's role was published in Special Issues on Dr. Dilliraman Regmi Memorial Journal.
- We have submitted a draft on National Policy on Library and Information Science to the government, including Information Literacy in our National Policy. Once, it is approved by the government, this will be the government's agenda for its development.
- Next, we are discussing with School Library Association to organise a workshop on Information Skills for Learning in Nepal.

Scotland – Dr. Dorothy Williams

- An e-petition sent to Scottish Parliament and the Scottish Executive to endorse information literacy as a key life long learning skill to be incorporated into the national school curriculum. The petition raised 710 signatures and the Public Petitions Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Executive, Learning and Teaching Scotland, the Scottish Qualifications Authority, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education, EIS and Universities Scotland. More information available at <http://www.learningservices.gcal.ac.uk/ils/petition.html>
- The second LILAC (Librarians information literacy annual conference) will be held in Leeds - 27-29 March - the conference organisers are hoping to attract participants across the sectors.
- Robert Gordon University (RGU) completed a study of school teachers' conceptions of information literacy in relation to classroom learning and will be available on their website.
- Recently awarded a PhD scholarship for research into the relationship between information literacy and knowledge management in the workplace to Ruben Toledano-O'Farrill from Mexico who is now in post. We received a huge response from around the world - interviewed people in India, Mexico, Kenya, UK, China.....!

Slovenia – Zdravka Pejova

- A 2 day UNESCO-CEI workshop on Information Literacy Initiatives in Central and South East Europe will be held in Slovenia beginning March 27. Please make your members aware of this very exciting opportunity! For more information, please contact Zdravka at [zdravka.pejova@guest.arnes.si](mailto:zdravka.pejova@guest.arnes.si)

Spain - Cristóbal Pasadas Ureña

- – A recent article on public libraries and the state of information literacy in Spain, is available on Biblioteca Facultad de Psicología Campus de Cartuja, Universidad de Granada website.
- A meeting of information literacy experts and practitioners was held in February in Toledo to discuss how to launch an information literacy agenda in Spain.

Sweden – Christina Tovoté, Chair NOrdINFOLIT

- NordINFOLIT's annual conference will be held in Copenhagen in August. Dr. Patricia Senn Breivik will keynote the conference. The theme of the conference is “Creating Knowledge: Empowering the Student through Cross-Institutional Support” with a focus on collaboration between library and academic support. More information available on <http://www.ck-iv.dk>
- Two conferences are being planned this year around the Bologna Process, information literacy and the academic libraries, one in Stockholm in February and one in Oslo in April.
- Plans for regional information literacy meetings in Sofia, Bulgaria and Granada, Spain are underway.

United Kingdom – John Lindsay

- There has been quite a lot as a consequence of the activities of CILIP and the world summit on the information society, in which I have not been involved. Simply point people to the CILIP web site, which I suspect is now providing leadership. The professional institutions in digital electronic computing technologies are completely absent. The issue of knowledge organisation is shape changing and becoming significant. The UNESCO decade of education for sustainable development is a major opportunity.

- Dr. Sheila Webber

- I and colleagues have been awarded 25 thousand pounds by the Higher Education Academy, in association with SCONUL, to undertake a systemic review of the research literature concerning the impact of information literacy and libraries on the student learning experience in UK Higher Education. There is a project blog at <http://infolit-review.blogspot.com/> including a link to a brochure

at <http://dis.shef.ac.uk/literacy/hea-flyer-nov.pdf>

- Important UK national events this year include the 2nd LILAC conference and the 2006 eLit conference  
<http://www.cilip.org.uk/specialinterestgroups/bysubject/information-literacy/lilac/lilac2006>  
<http://www.lboro.ac.uk/library/eLit2006/>

Patricia, Sharon, and I want to thank our International Colleagues, on behalf of the National Forum, for providing us with such informative updates. The work of the International Alliance is so critical to our universal, collaborative efforts in mainstreaming information literacy philosophy and practice worldwide. We always look forward to hearing from the Alliance and sharing with the Forum membership news about the Alliance's on-going efforts and activities.