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# Information literacy beyond the academy: recent perspectives from the UK

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**Österreichischen Bibliothekartag!**  
**Vienna: 15-18 September 2015**



# Overview and introduction

- About [Jane Secker](#) and [LSE](#)
- About the [UK CILIP Information Literacy Group](#)
- [Student Ambassadors for Digital Literacy \(SADL\)](#) project at LSE



# The CILIP Information Literacy Group

- Special Interest Group of [Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals](#) set up in 2003
- Founded [LILAC](#) in 2004
- Run the the open access, peer-reviewed [Journal of Information Literacy](#)
- Run [informationliteracy.org.uk](http://informationliteracy.org.uk)
- Fund training events, sponsorship and offer research bursaries for members
- Community of over 1000 members, 3300 followers on Twitter [@infolitgroup](#)



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/criminalintent/3834911120>

# Our aims....

- Share good practice in information literacy teaching and research
- Provide a network and a voice for information literacy work in the library profession



- Undertake research and innovation initiatives
- Work across the library sectors
- Reach out beyond the library sector.....

# Information literacy in the UK

- Despite increasing recognition of the value of **digital literacy & skills** in UK government, information literacy work often not recognised outside Higher Education (HE) sector
- Attempts to address this through the research bursaries scheme: focusing outside HE
- Developing links with: schools, workplaces, trade unions, other professional groups and organisations
- Advertising for an Advocacy and Outreach Officer

# IL in the HE Sector

- IL highly developed and widely recognised in university libraries
- Increasing focus on
  - Finding, evaluating and managing information (plagiarism)
  - transition from school and graduates going into the workplace
  - digital and using social media tools
- Expertise on supporting research students and students undertaking dissertations
- Many attempts to embed in curriculum



# Our challenge.....

- To get IL outside the HE community
- To break down the digital divide
- To connect with other interested stakeholders who may have traditional views of what librarians do and information literacy



- First project funded by ILG based in Newcastle public library
- Support for residents to go online
- Establish a network of digital champions
- Training for front line Newcastle council staff

# Current ILG research projects

- DeVIL Project( Determining the value of information literacy for employers)
- How does Information Literacy add real value to businesses?
- Developing a tool to determine how information competences underpin the performance and effectiveness of enterprises
- Research led by Stephane Goldstein and Drew Whitworth

# Current research projects in 2015

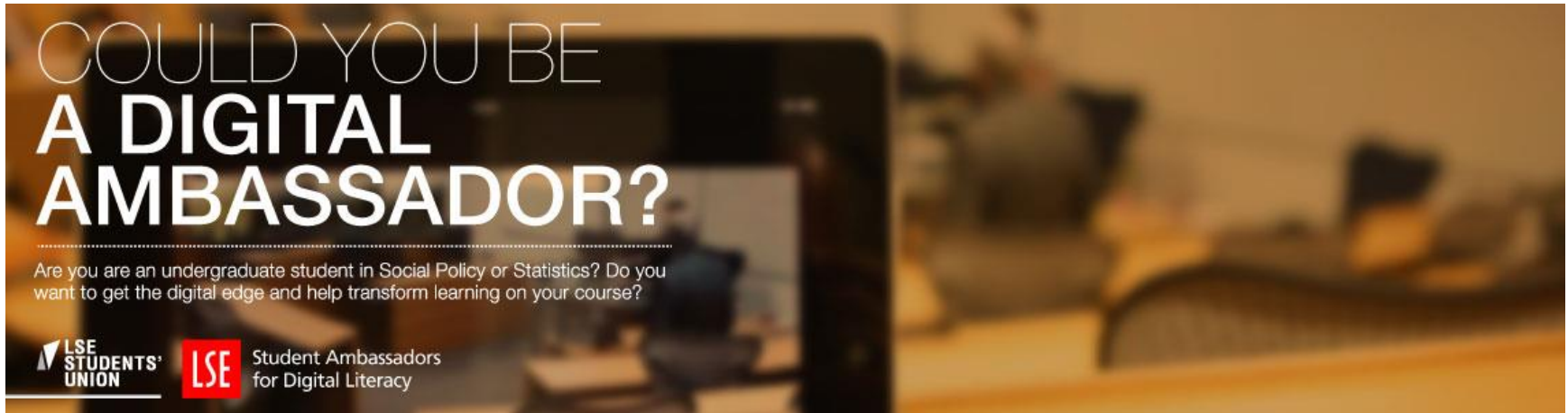
- Learning, lending, liberty? Can school libraries be engines for youth citizenship?
- The role of public libraries in citizenship education and political participation
- Led by Lauren Smith



- A initiative in UK schools for 13-16 year olds to foster an interest in science, technology and innovation
- Run TeenTech events around the UK
- Sponsors include: Google, Airbus, nationalgrid, Network Rail, Maplin and ILG
- Prestigious awards ceremony at Royal Society
- From 2015 all projects judged on their Research and Information Literacy skills



# Student Ambassadors at LSE



“By digital literacy we mean those capabilities which fit an individual for living, learning and working in a digital society: for example, the skills to use digital tools to undertake academic research, writing and critical thinking; as part of personal development planning; and as a way of showcasing achievements.”

**JISC definition:**



# SADL Project aims

- To **understand** students' existing digital and information literacy (DIL) skills.
- To explore how best to **support students** to improve their DIL skills and provide **peer support**.



# Student partnerships

- Students can be **empowered**
- **Sharing** experiences beyond their institution
- Working with **other students** (not just Students' Union)
- A more 'real' student voice
- Your champions!
- Student partnership [toolkit](#) (from Jisc)
- **Tensions:** freedom vs support, guidance and structure



# SADL Senior Ambassadors

- Worked alongside staff
- Gave feedback on workshop content
- Guided and worked with students in workshops
- Gave feedback on sessions
- Led student projects



# Going forward

**“For partnership to be embedded and sustained beyond documents, projects and initiatives, it needs to become part of the culture and ethos of the institution”**

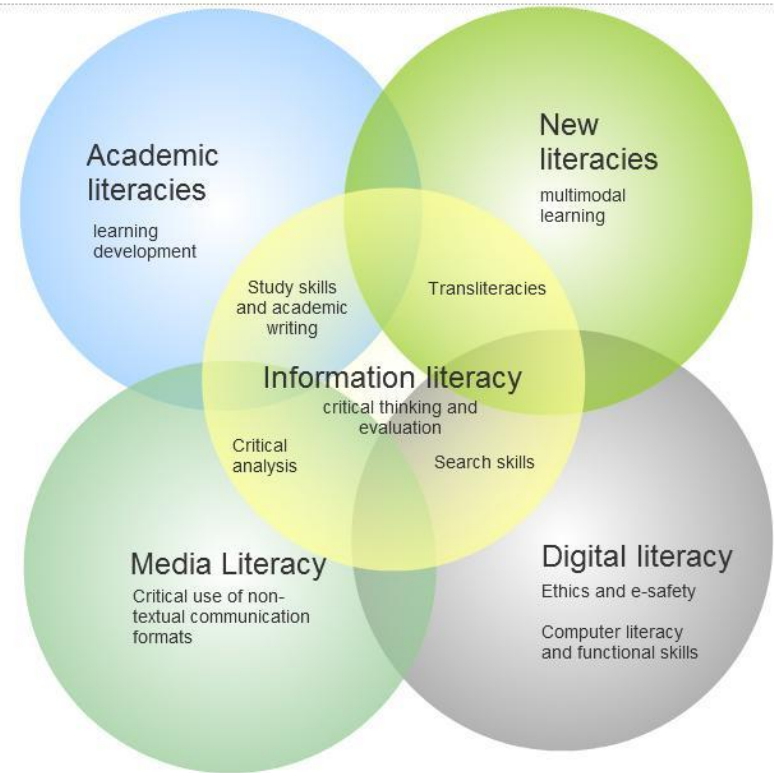
HEA framework for partnership in learning and teaching in higher education (2014)



# Why digital and information literacy?

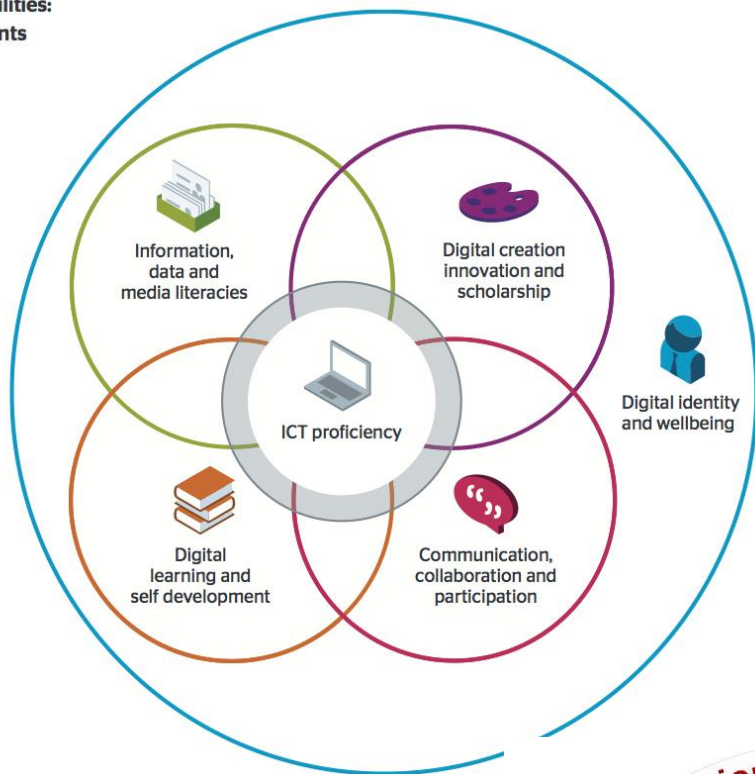
- Terminology matters
- It's about identities and boundaries
- It can prevent links being made
- But it can start a dialogue about purpose & values

Information Literacy Landscape

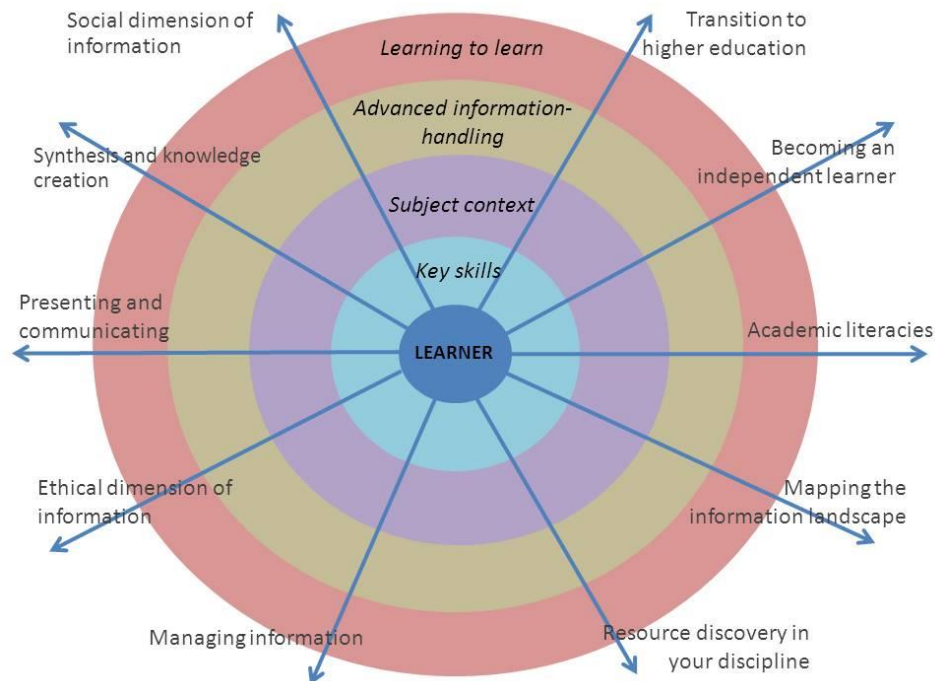


create and share your own diagrams at [gliffy.com](https://www.gliffy.com)

**Digital capabilities:  
the six elements**

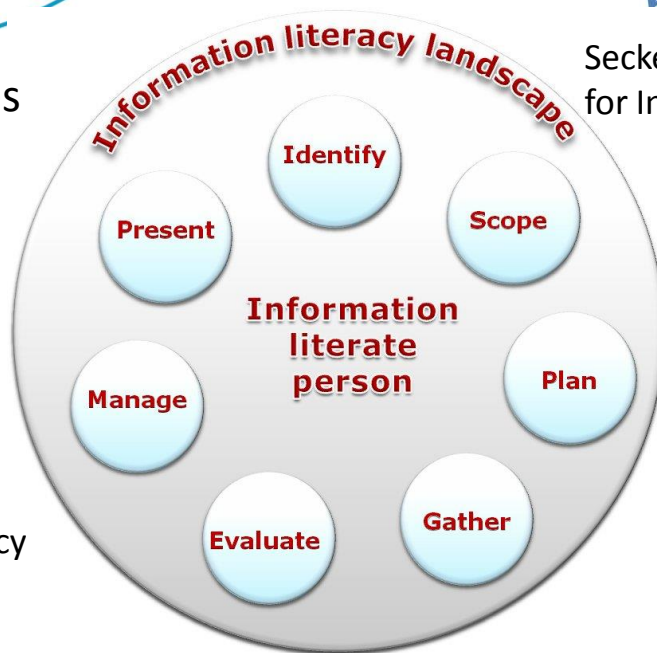


Jisc (2015) Digital Capabilities



Secker and Coonan (2013) A New Curriculum for Information Literacy

**SCONUL 7 Pillars of 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.”**

**UNESCO Alexandria Proclamation 2005**

# Thank you and goodnight Vienna!



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# References and further reading

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<http://www.informationliteracy.org.uk/>

