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## The UK Information Literacy website

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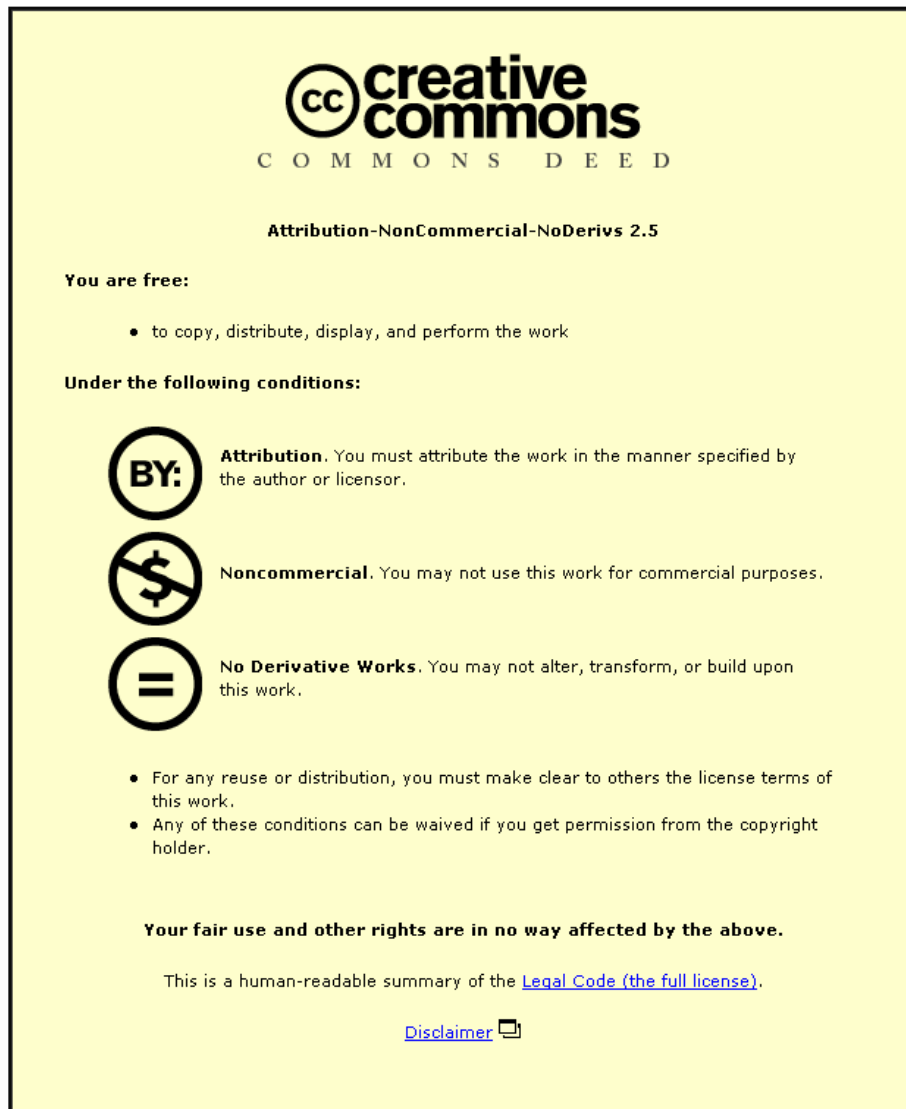
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## **The UK Information Literacy Website**

Ruth Stubbings and Debbie Boden

The UK Information Literacy website was launched in March 2006 and can be found at <http://www.informationliteracy.org.uk>. The website is dedicated to the enhancement of the important field of Information Literacy (IL). The site has been established through a partnership with the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) Community Services Group (CSG) sub group on Information Literacy<sup>1</sup>, Eduserv<sup>2</sup>, Society of College, National and University Libraries (SCONUL)<sup>3</sup>, the Museum Libraries and Archives Council (MLA)<sup>4</sup>, the Higher Education Academy Information and Computing Sciences Centre (HEA-ICS)<sup>5</sup> and the Schools Library Group<sup>6</sup>. To find out more about the partners visit their websites listed at the end of this article.

### **Information Literacy and the web**

In the UK there are many different groups who maintain websites that contain data on IL. These groups include SCONUL, and the Schools Library Group. There are also many individuals who also maintain websites devoted to IL, for example, Susie Andretta, Chris Powis and Sheila Webber. Similarly there are many information literacy websites across the world, such as the European network for Information Literacy, the Information Literacy Links website maintained by Council of Australian University Librarians and the National Forum on Information Literacy. The result being that there is a plethora of information on IL scattered and housed in various locations. In July 2002 'the Bigblue Report' recognised this and recommended that:

'a national forum should be established to promote information skills and to provide support and a consultancy service on all aspects of information skills to the library, academic and student communities.'<sup>7</sup>

The CILIP CSG Information Literacy group supported this recommendation and therefore decided to take a lead role in the development of such a resource. However the CILIP CSG Information Literacy group wanted to widen the remit of the portal, so that it catered not only for the higher education sector, but for all sectors within the library community, e.g. schools, NHS, public and government libraries etc..

### **Development of the UK Information Literacy website**

Discussions on the feasibility of a national resource took place with representatives from several of the CILIP specialist interest groups, SCONUL, the HEA-ICS, Schools Library Group, NIACE, Learning to Learn, Chris Powis and Sheila Webber. All were in agreement that a UK website could be core to future IL developments within the library community and agreed to take part or support the development of a UK Information Literacy website.

The partners agreed that it was important for the website to be seen as a national resource and not 'owned' by any particular group or individual. Where the website was to be hosted was therefore an important consideration. All initial partners were delighted when Eduserv offered to host the site free of charge through their charitable arm, the Eduserv Foundation. Eduserv agreed to provide the hardware, software, maintenance, technical help, web design and usage reports for the

website.

A call went out to the different group members for possible content. A small board of editors with representatives from most of the partners was created and content was added to the site. All content provided by the various partners and sometimes individuals was branded and acknowledged to the group / individual who provided it. The website partners recognise that quality assurance and reliability of the site is vital and are therefore in the process of creating a steering group that will oversee the strategic purpose of the site.

### **Role and content of the UK Information Literacy website**

The UK Information Literacy website looks across all sectors of the library and information world, from education and public libraries to health libraries - indeed anywhere that IL is seen as an important issue. The aim of the site is to provide a comprehensive overview of IL within the UK and to act as a gateway to good quality resources for anyone involved in teaching or facilitating the teaching of IL, both formally and informally in any sector. The site aims to contain the following types of information:

IL definitions and standards (both UK and overseas definitions)

IL websites & blogs

Developing professional practice by linking to InfoTeach<sup>8</sup>

Current initiatives / research (funding opportunities, who is doing what, research techniques)

- Resources both general and by sector including

- o Marketing / embedding IL into life long learning

- o Subject / sector specific resources (including links to existing

resources, e.g. lesson plans, online tutorials, question banks)

A peer reviewed journal called the Journal of Information Literacy or JIL for short

News, announcements and events

Discussion through the jiscmail info-literacy discussion list<sup>9</sup>

Suggestion box for content and comments about the website

### **The UK Information Literacy website and you**

The UK Information Literacy website is still in its infancy. We hope that it will grow with your help. Please let us know about events we should advertise, resources we should link to, content we should add and any general comments you have about the resource.

### **List of references**

1 CILIP CSG Information Literacy Group

<http://www.cilip.org.uk/specialinterestgroups/bysubject/informationliteracy/default.htm>

2 Eduserv <http://www.eduserv.org.uk/>

3 SCONUL <http://www.sconul.ac.uk/>

4 MLA <http://www.mla.gov.uk/>

5 HEA-ICS <http://www.ics.heacademy.ac.uk/>

6 Schools Library Group <http://www.sla.org.uk/>

7 JISC. University of Leeds and Manchester Metropolitan University (2002)

The Bigblue project. Available from <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/bigblue/finalreportful.pdf>  
[accessed may 2005]

8 InfoTeach [http://www.infoteach.org/wiki/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://www.infoteach.org/wiki/index.php/Main_Page)

9 lis-infoliteracy <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/lis-infoliteracy.html>