

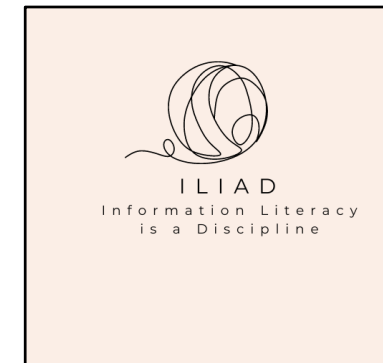
THE DISCIPLINE OF INFORMATION LITERACY:

REVITALIZING THE CONVERSATION ON YOUR CAMPUS

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Agenda

Introduction

Background

Elements of a Discipline

Information Literacy Disciplinary Elements

Teaching the Discipline of Information Literacy

Summary

INTRODUCTION





THANK YOU FOR JOINING US FOR THIS CONVERSATION TODAY!

Our work began in March of 2021, when a group came together and discussed the question:

What might change about information literacy (IL) educational practice if IL was recognized as a discipline rather than as a set-of-skills or concepts?

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In a few words, describe your initial thoughts on IL being recognized as a disciple.

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PRESENTATION TITLE

BACKGROUND



ILIAD GROUP

Group

Regular Meetings

Joined by Sheila Webber and Bill Johnston – authors on IL as a discipline (1999, 2006, 2017)

Named the Group “ILIAD”

Logo

Book

Discussed idea in ILIAD Group

Worked with Facet Publ.

Information Literacy Handbook: Charting the Discipline (expected 2025)

Presentations

LILAC 2022

ACRL 2023

LOEX 2023

ECIL 2023



ELEMENTS OF A DISCIPLINE

WHAT IS A DISCIPLINE?

Defining a discipline...

“a particular branch of learning or body of knowledge whose defining elements—i.e., phenomena, assumptions, epistemology, concepts, theories, and methods—distinguish it from other knowledge formations.”

Repko, 2008, p. 4

Nature of different disciplines

- Hard pure: chemistry, physics, etc.
- Hard applied: civil engineering, horticulture, etc.
- Soft pure: English, political science, etc.
- Soft applied: nursing, teacher education, etc.

Biglan, 1973

ELEMENTS OF A DISCIPLINE

ELEMENTS	EXAMPLES
Community of scholars	Professional organizations; conferences
Communications networks	Journals, conferences; academic publishers
Code of ethics	Methods for ensuring research veracity; pedagogic integrity
Traditions and history	Origin stories; historical events
Specific modes of inquiry	Theories, methods, and research approaches
Shared expectations of what constitutes knowledge	Curricula, standards, models


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How would you rate IL's alignment with the elements of a discipline?

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PRESENTATION TITLE

The graphic features a large, abstract composition of overlapping organic shapes in shades of blue, yellow, orange, and teal. These shapes are filled with various patterns: white dots, white dashes, and orange dots. The background is white, with a green line forming a partial frame at the top and bottom left. A large orange circle is partially visible at the bottom center.

INFORMATION LITERACY DISCIPLINARY ELEMENTS ALIGNMENT

ELEMENTS OF THE IL DISCIPLINE

DISCIPLINE ELEMENTS	SELECT EXAMPLES
Community of scholars	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ LOEX▪ ACRL Instruction Section▪ ALA LIRT
Communications networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Journal of Information Literacy</i>▪ <i>Communication in Information Literacy</i>
Code of ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Effective pedagogic practice▪ Student-centeredness▪ Focus on ethical and equitable use of information
Traditions and history	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Paul Zurkowski (1974) coining the term “IL”▪ Prague Declaration (2003)
Specific modes of inquiry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Emphasis on qualitative data▪ Humanistic focus
Shared expectations of what constitutes knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Educational materials, courses, pedagogies▪ Research into IL practices

THE DISCIPLINE OF IL

Nature of the Discipline

- Soft applied discipline
- Focus on teaching

Relationship to Other Disciplines

- Takes shape within other disciplinary environments, e.g., communications chemistry, etc.

- Faculty in other disciplines do not use the term IL (Hicks, et. al, 2022)

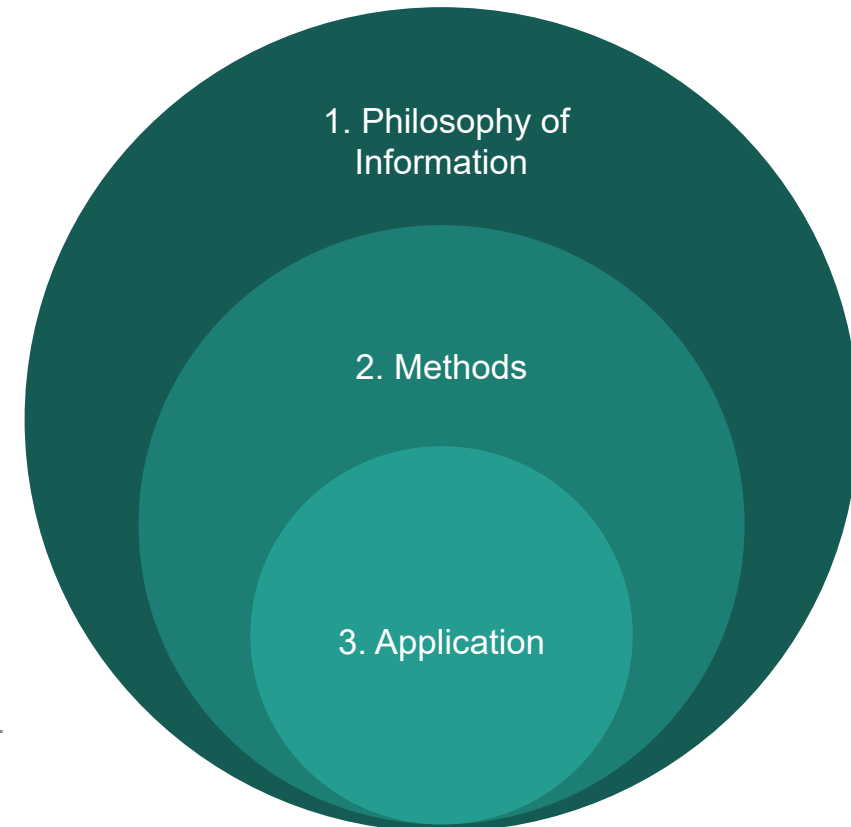


TEACHING THE DISCIPLINE OF INFORMATION LITERACY

TEACHING THE DISCIPLINE OF IL

“[T]eaching IL applications without teaching methods and philosophy is like showing someone how to steer and use the brakes on a car without teaching overall driving techniques and the rules of the road.”

Badke, 2008, p. 10-11



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If IL is a discipline, list one or two ways this might change or impact your practice?

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PRESENTATION TITLE

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER AROUND THIS TOPIC

How would the idea of IL being a discipline be introduced to campus IL stakeholders?

Would recognizing IL as a discipline provide new opportunities to connect with faculty in other departments, or open new pathways for integrating IL into curricula?

Would it lead to the development of new courses and what specific ideas about information, methods, and applications should be covered in those courses?

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If IL is a discipline, what new opportunities are there to connect with faculty in other departments?

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PRESENTATION TITLE

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Please rate the notion of IL as a discipline.

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PRESENTATION TITLE

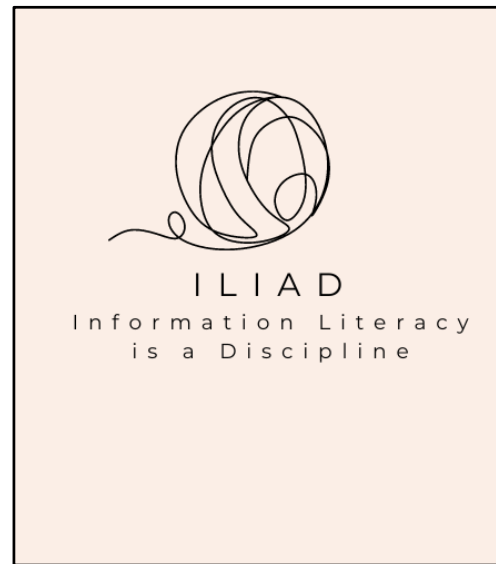
THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

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