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Workshop

# "Intercultural Perspectives of Information Literacy and Metaliteracy" 2023

# Conference Report

Online Conference
2023-02-25

As part of the transnational project course "Intercultural perspectives on information literacy", the project "IPIL" was created in cooperation with international students and professors. Within the project, the students organised themselves into groups and created screencasts on given topics. In addition, there were two guest contributions from participating lecturers. The focus was on the intercultural perspective on information literacy.
The screencasts were presented on Feb. 24, 2023, during an online conference.

google as an information gatekeeper **|** digital rights for a digital literate citizen **|** gamification of information literacy learning scenarios **|** data protection and security **|** building research capacity through information literacy **|** corporate misinformation and financial standards **|** researching and comparing national initiatives to foster information literacy **|** impact of algorithms on information consumption, especially in social media environments

## First Google as an Information Gatekeeper

The first group dealt with the topic "Google as an information Gatekeeper", investigating the impact of the respective languages on the quality of scientific papers in *Google scholar*. For this purpose, the same search term "covid vaccine" was searched for in the students' native language and in English.
It became clear that especially in India the quality of scientific papers decreases due to the diversity of languages. In Germany, on the other hand, there were hardly any differences between the German and English searches.

*"IN MULTILINGUAL SEARCHES, IS THE LANGUAGE IN WHICH A DOCUMENT IS WRITTEN A FACTOR IN GOOGLE SCHOLAR'S RANKING ALGORITHM?"*

*Rovira C., Codina L., Lopezosa C. Language Bias in the Google Scholar Ranking Algorithm. Future Internet. 2021; 13(2):31. https://doi.org/10.3390/fi13020031*

## Second Digital Rights for a Digital Literate Citizen

The second group had the topic "Digital Rights for a digital literate Citizen". The effects of Covid 19 on the digital rights of the inhabitants in different countries were examined. The focus was on the measures that the state had taken to be able to operate the educational sites despite the pandemic.

In addition, critical aspects in this area were explained in advance. In order to be able to compare the different countries, corresponding studies were selected.
It was interesting to see that there were strong differences in the Nordic European countries.

- Public policies need to minimize technological disparities and divisions to create a greater digital participation
- Ensuring that digital goods can be interpreted and used correctly by all users
- Promotion of critical thinking and digital media literacy competence through introduction of cross-border projects
- Need to integrate digital citizenship education in curricula with topics such as Internet safety, privacy and security, information literacy

## Third Gamification of Information Literacy Learning Scenarios

The third group dealt with the topic "Gamification of information literacy learning scenarios". In this screencast different learning scenarios were analysed and compared. A total of 11 different learning scenarios with a gamification character were compared.
The focus was on the playful applications with which the participants could open up new topics. At the end, advantages and disadvantages of these learning scenarios were discussed and own ideas for a possible implementation were explained.

- Not every gamification approach is suitable in every learning context
- Consider instructional and motivational design theories when trying to increase the learner's motivation and engagement
- Take the learner's characteristics, such as their personality, age, cultural background and educational needs, into account
- Common game-design elements in information literacy and metaliteracy learning scenarios are points, challenges, badges and quizzes

## Fourth Surveillance & Data Protection on the Internet

The fourth group dealt with the topic "Data protection and security". In this screencast different data collections problems were showed, as well as counteractive measures, to minimize the collected data. The focus lied on easy-to-use tools to impede data collection on the internet.

*"[...] THE COLLECTION OF DATA REGARDING A PARTICULAR USER'S ACTIVITY ACROSS MULTIPLE DISTINCT CONTEXTS AND THE RETENTION, USE, OR SHARING OF DATA DERIVED FROM THAT ACTIVITY OUTSIDE THE CONTEXT IN WHICH IT OCCURRED"*

*W3C (2019): Tracking Compliance and Scope. Retrieved February 12, 2023 at https://www.w3.org/TR/tracking-compliance/*

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## Fifth Building Research Capacity through Information Literacy

The fifth group presented the topic "Building research capacity through information literacy".



*Presentation group five "Building research capacity through information literacy"*

At first, programs in different states regarding information literacy at universities and the resulting possibilities to improve them were presented.
The topic was concluded by a summary of measures to improve the quality of information literacy programs.

## Sixth Corporate Misinformation & Financial Standard

Group number six presented the topic "Corporate misinformation and financial standards". The first tackled topic was greenwashing. The second big topic were financial scandals focusing on FTX, especially the downfall. The presentation has been completed by a quote of Robin Banerjee.

*"YOU CAN FOOL SOME PEOPLE SOMETIME, YOU CAN'T FOOL ALL THE PEOPLE ALL THE TIME. SOONER OR LATER, THE TRUTH WILL COME OUT."*

*Robin Banerjee (President and CEO, Caprihans India Limited)*

## Seventh Researching & Comparing National Initiatives to Foster Information Literacy

The seventh group presented the topic "Researching and comparing national initiatives to foster information literacy". He focus lied on presenting initiatives to foster information literacy in the countries germany, kazakhstan, india and bosnia and herzegovina.
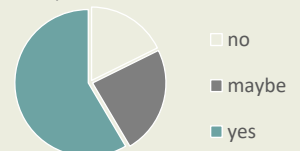
The presentation was closed by a summary and an outlook. The main problems identified were lack of specialists and language barriers.

- Create awareness of information literacy
- Equality in education
- Creation of standards
- Involvement in educational institutions, also related to universities

## Eighth Impact of Algorithms on Information Consumption

Group eight presented the impact of algorithms on information consumption, especially in social media environments.
At first, psychological, sociological and technical aspects, security aspects and political of algorithms were highlighted. In the end, a self conducted survey about their use of social media plattforms was presented.



During election periods, do you feel like political ads cannot be escaped?
(147 responses)

- no
- maybe
- yes

*Presentation group eight "Impact of algorithms on information consumption"*

## Being a Metaliterate Producer in a World of AI

The group presentations were rounded out by an exciting guest paper on "Being a Metaliterate Producer in a World of AI" by Trudi E. Jacobson *(University at Albany (State University of New York)* and Tom Mackey *(SUNY Empire State College)*, who once again demonstrated what an important asset information literacy is in a technologically and intelligently growing environment.

## Conclusion

Overall, the conference and discussions were able to provide a diverse and critical insight into the topic of "Information Literacy", answering the questions of the current digital age from an intercultural perspective.
The conference added a lot of practical value by highlighting measures to promote information literacy: dealing with digital information sources and recognizing misinformation, tools for data protection, learning scenario suggestions for implementation with gamification, the influence of algorithms on social media and media literacy, as well as assistance for introducing information literacy programs at educational institutions.

More information can be found on the website of the project: https://ipil.blog.uni-hildesheim.de/

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