



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

The Role of **MI**Literacy in the Development Agenda

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Literacy in the world

Millennium Development Goals UN Literacy Decade 2003-2012

- Literacy rates significantly increased during last decade.

However...

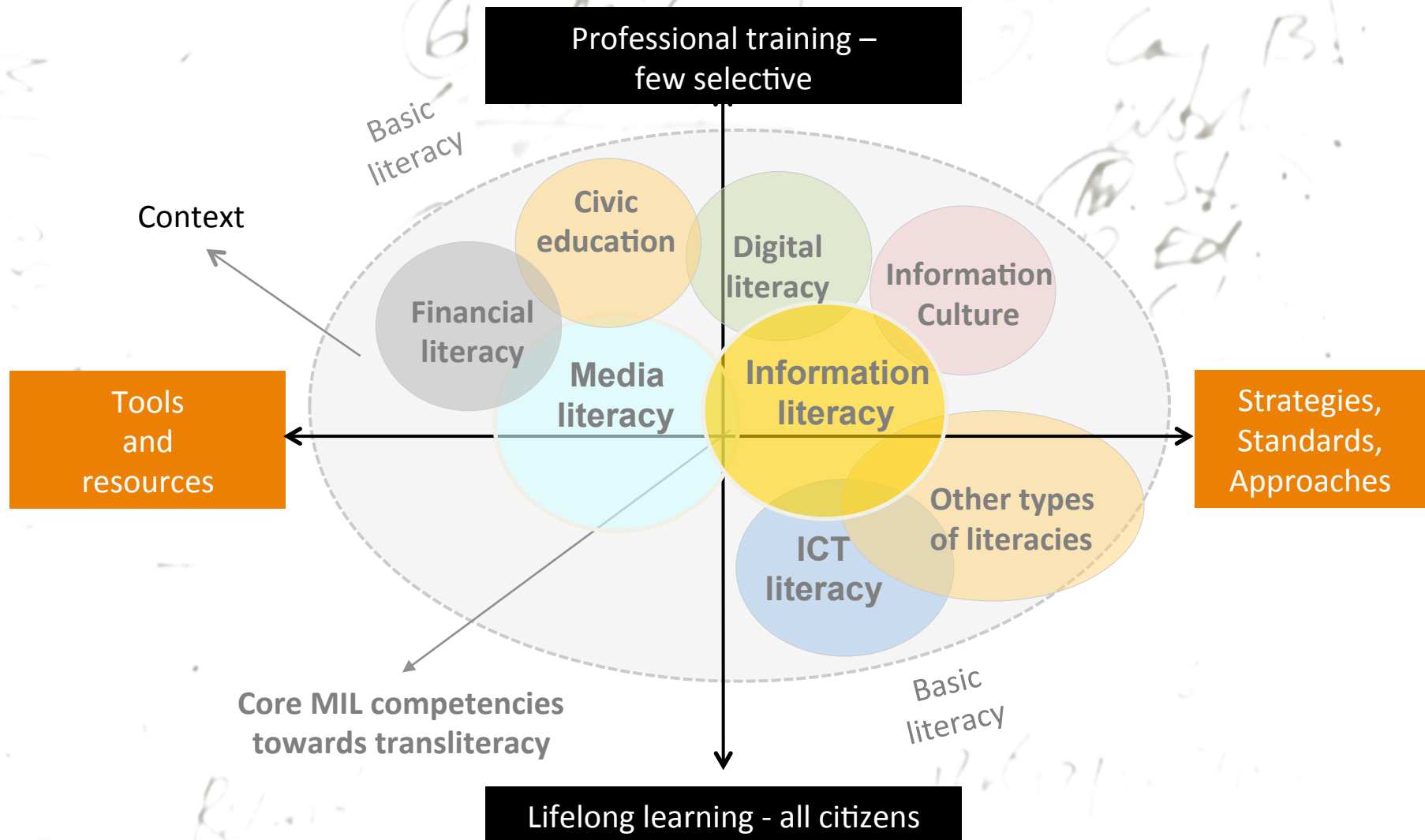
- 69 million adolescents are not in school,
- 774 million illiterate youth and adults.

Results of UN Literacy Decade highlighted new challenges:

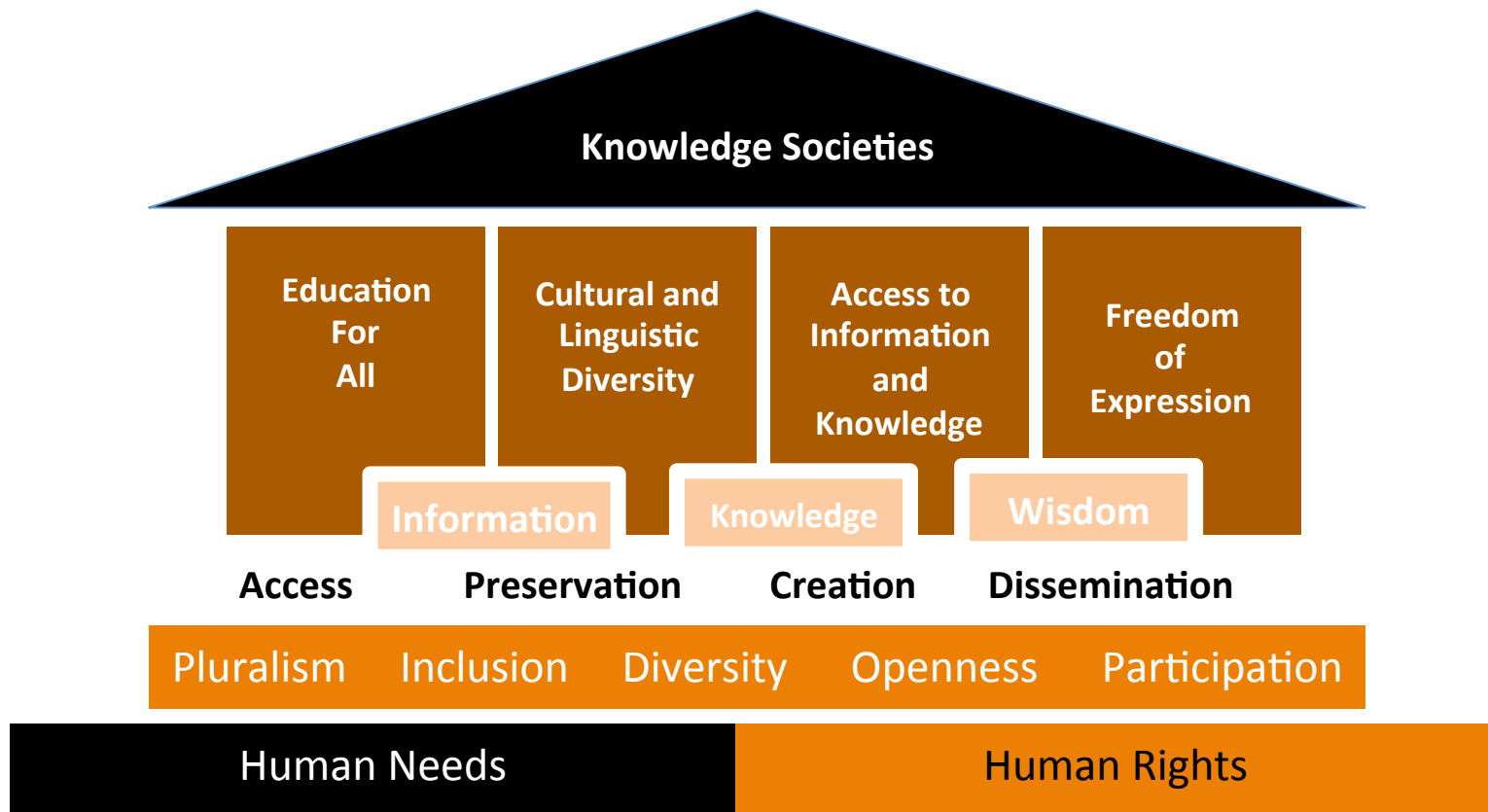
- Traditional literacies no longer sufficient – as illustrated by youth unemployment, financial crises, and digital and knowledge divides
- Difficult to reach marginalised groups.



New literacy framework?



UNESCO's Framework – Building knowledge societies

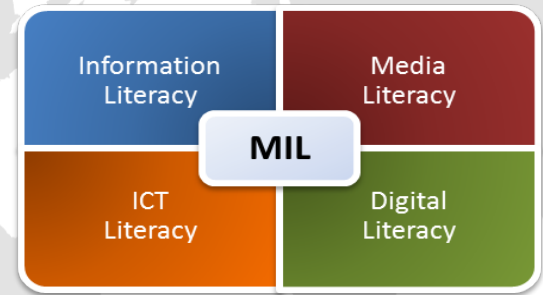


Media and Information Literacy

The ultimate goal of MIL is to empower people to exercise their universal rights and fundamental freedoms, such as freedom of opinion and expression as well as seek, impart and receive information taking an advantage of emerging opportunities and tools in most effective, inclusive, ethical and efficient manner for the benefit of all individuals, communities and societies.



Challenges



- Is MIL the right approach?
- Does it achieve the right balance between Information Literacy and Media Literacy as well as other types of literacy?
- What is the role of MIL within other UN literacy frameworks?

UNESCO's Role

Major Programme V (2014-2015) - Strategic Objective 9: Promoting freedom of expression, media development, and access to information and knowledge

- **Main Line of Action 1:** Promoting an enabling environment for press freedom and journalistic safety, facilitating pluralism and participation in media, and supporting sustainable and independent media institutions
- (2) Pluralistic media institutions are facilitated, including by adoption of gender-sensitive policies and through support for strengthened community media policy and practice, while citizens, and particularly youth, are empowered through enhanced MIL competencies
- **Main Line of Action 2:** Enabling Universal Access and Preservation of Information and Knowledge
- (4) Member States empowered in building inclusive knowledge societies and creating the conditions for sustainable development by promoting and using multilingualism in cyberspace, universal access and preservation of information, enhanced ICT skills and open solutions

How could MIL be promoted as an international framework?



International endorsements

Convention, treaty (0)

Recommendations (3)

IFLA Media and Information Literacy Recommendations (2012)
Recommendation on the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace (2003)
UNESCO Charter on the Preservation of Digital Heritage (2003)

Declarations (11)

Doha Declaration on Supporting Media and Information Literacy Education in the Middle-East (2013)
Moscow Declaration on Media and Information Literacy (2012)
Havana Declaration on Information Literacy (2012)
Fez Declaration on Media and Information Literacy (2011)
Brussels Declaration on Media Literacy (2011)
Declaration of Lima (2009)
Toledo Declaration on Information Literacy (2006)
Declaration of Russian Association for Film & Media Education (2004)
Prague Declaration Towards an Information Literacy Society (2003)
Grunwald Declaration (1982)
Declaration on the Importance of Media Literacy by National Council of Teachers of English (2008, US)

Proclamation (1)

Alexandria Proclamation on Information Literacy and Lifelong Learning (2005)

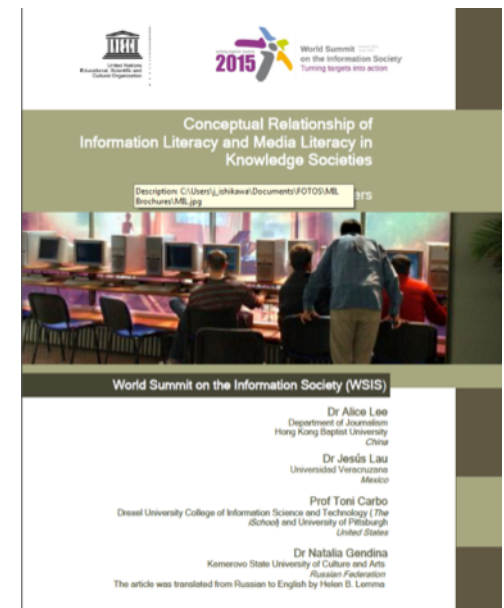
International Promotion Mechanisms

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS):

Towards a *'people centred, inclusive and development-oriented information and knowledge society'* (Geneva, 2003; Tunis, 2005)

- Action Lines C3, C4, C9
- WSIS+10 Review Conference February 2013
- Modalities adopted UN General Assembly 2013
- WSIS+10 High Level event, Egypt, April 2014
- UN General Assembly 2015 – WSIS Review meeting

Internet Governance Forum (IGF)



International Promotion Mechanisms

Information for All Programme (IFAP) – Information literacy as one of the key priorities



- IL empowers individuals to seek, evaluate, use and create information effectively to achieve their personal, social, occupational and educational goals.
- Information-literate people are able to access information about their health, environment and work, and make critical decisions.
- Enables individuals to bring themselves out of poverty, and communities to flourish

Tools and Resources



Understanding Information Literacy – A Primer 2008



Towards IL Indicators, 2008



Towards MIL Indicators, 2010



MIL Curriculum for Teachers 2011



Information Literacy Worldwide Resources 2013



Online course on MIL and Intercultural Dialogue – *in process*



Global MIL Assessment Framework 2013 – *To be published*

MIL Policy & Strategy Guidelines 2013 – *To be published*

Networks and alliances

University Network on Media and Information Literacy and Intercultural Dialogue

Global Forum for Partnership on MIL – June 2013, Abuja, Nigeria

WSIS Online Community – Information Literacy

Professional online community on Information Literacy
Join at www.wsis-community.org/



Thank you for listening

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