

IL Fox – Research for an

Innovative Instruction Technology Grants



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- SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher

In May of 2012, the office of the SUNY provost announced a new grant opportunity: the Innovative Instruction Technology Grants program, or IITG for short. This program aims to encourage and support the exploration of technology in teaching, and especially emphasizes partnership and collaboration.

Information Literacy Toolkit



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IL Fox Project Overview

Research the development of an online IL toolkit designed to provide:

- Information Literacy terminology, history, context, and applications
- Consistent access to a centralized enhanced information database
- An entry point into the world of experts affiliated with information literacy



Our project involved researching the development of an online information literacy toolkit containing two pedagogical elements – a dictionary of key terms from the information literacy curriculum, and a supporting encyclopedia page for each of these providing term history, overview, and other pertinent information.

Introduction to Information Literacy

- [What is Information Literacy?](#)
- [Why is Information Literacy important?](#)
- [Who needs Information Literacy?](#)
- [How do I learn more about Information Literacy?](#)

What is Information Literacy?

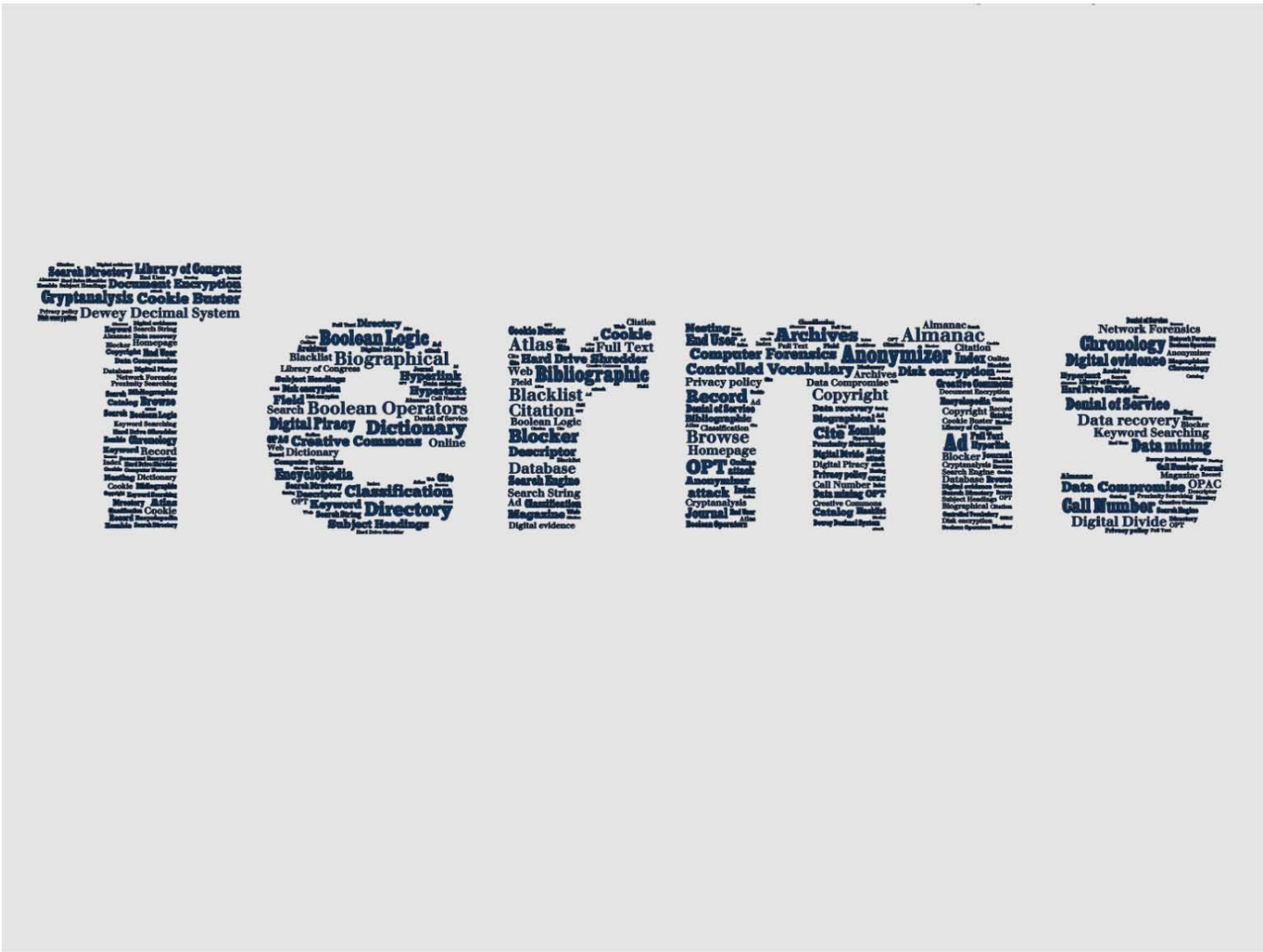
Information Literacy is the set of skills needed to find, retrieve, analyze, and use information.

The beginning of the 21st century has been called the Information Age because of the explosion of information sources. It has become increasingly clear that students cannot learn everything they study in a few years of college. Information literacy equips them with the critical skills necessary for lifelong learners.

Too often we assume that as students write research papers and read textbooks they are gaining so. IL skills may be introduced but what is needed is a parallel curriculum in IL forming a strong education.

As the [American Library Association Presidential Committee on Information Literacy](#) (January 10, 2002) says "Ultimately, information literate people are those who have learned how to learn. They know how knowledge is organized, how to find information, and how to use information in such a

For those unfamiliar with the term, Information Literacy is most often defined using the American Library Association's definition, which is: "A set of abilities requiring individuals to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information."



From a comprehensive review of information literacy-related literature and organizations, over 2000 terms were selected for inclusion in IL Fox. These range from simple, static terms to more complex, dynamic ones. Terms that were identified as static were further coded by level of complexity.

Expert Identification



- Identified over 1700 experts for entry creation
- Looking for additional experts for entry creation and review

Most entries in IL Fox will be authored by experts in the field. We have identified more than 1700 information literacy experts for this who will be instrumental in the development of strong collaborations across campuses, SUNY Centers, and professional organizations. We are seeking additional collaborators, which is a large part of our being here today!

Assessment



- Developed pre/post assessments and usability tests
- Created materials for reviewers
- Will submit to PRIMO and MERLOT

To assess the effectiveness of IL Fox as a pedagogical resource, pre- and post-tests were developed, along with an instrument for usability testing. Outreach materials and criteria for content reviewers were also created. A further means of assessment will occur through submission of IL Fox to PRIMO and MERLOT for review.

Technical Aspects

- Determined technology needs
- Reviewed available software
- Created online forms and templates



Because IL Fox will be an online resource, there are many technical considerations. Preliminary research into these included determining the needs for a platform, reviewing available software for cost and flexibility, and defining maintenance issues and strategies. We also created online forms and templates for content creation and submission.

Outreach Materials

- Criteria for definition and entry creation
- Drafts of online forms for contact and submission
- Communication tools for soliciting and contacting collaborators
- Student assignment and related materials



Various outreach materials were developed, including criteria and online forms for definitions and entries. Communication and submission tools for authors and reviewers were drafted as well. We also created an assignment for LIS students to author static term content, and drafted communication tools for this.

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Collaborative Partnerships

- Diverse project team
- Expert authors and reviewers
- LIS faculty and students
- Actively seeking additional partnerships



This project is founded on partnership, beginning with a research team composed of a seasoned librarian, a library technology wizard, and a librarian quite new to the field. As mentioned, collaboration will also occur with experts, and LIS faculty and students. Additionally, we are seeking partnerships via listservs and conferences such as this one.



Conference Presentations

- Presented at 2012 Annual NYLA Conference
- Call for partners at SUNY CIT 2013
- Will present at SUNYLA Conference 2013

To recruit additional expert authors and reviewers, we presented at the 2012 NYLA Conference. This presentation is also intended as a call for partners in this project. And, following this, we will present at the SUNYLA Conference in June. To further extend this call, all presentations have been or will be posted online.

Challenges



- Scope of Information Literacy
- Scope of project
- Locating contact information for experts

"I can be reached at:

my first initial then last name, followed by the "at" symbol
and the name of this school "dot" e d u"

The multidisciplinary nature of information literacy, and the range of complexity among terms, required researching a wide range of materials and creating multiple versions of criteria and templates. Due to individuals' efforts to deter spam, finding contact information also proved challenging.

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Rewards

- Knowledge acquisition
- Work on a unique project
- Partnerships (Internal & External)
- Collaborative problem solving
- Innovative interactions

Work on IL Fox continues to be fulfilling, expanding our knowledge of information literacy and our belief in the value of this unique resource. Collaboration has been invaluable, both among the research team and beyond, with a deep level of shared problem solving combining a range of technologies and areas of expertise.

What's Next?

- Phase Two (Multiple Strategies)
- Implementation late 2013



The IITG grant provided funding for one year. This supported a thorough research process that included consideration of multiple strategies for moving forward. Following these, implementation will occur in late 2013, with stages ranging from platform creation to content development and evaluation.

Create Platform

- Underlying architecture
- Customization
- Usability and accessibility



The initial task will be creating the platform, which will include a searching/browsing feature, listing of definitions, and structure for encyclopedia entries. After determining syntax, layout, and levels of interactivity, a working version will be created using human-computer interface design with a focus on usability and accessibility standards.

Author Entries/Definitions

- Expert authors
- LIS students



Experts we identified in the research phase will be contacted to create and upload entries for their assigned terms. Collaborative efforts will also be made with LIS faculty to engage students in creating content for static terms. By the end of the next phase of the project, a minimum of 500 key terms will contain definitions and entries and be available online.

Assessment/Usability

- Expert review board
- Usability testing
- Assessment



As term definitions and entries are finalized, reviewers enlisted during the research phase will evaluate these for accuracy, clarity and consistency. To gauge the success of the interface, usability testing will be conducted among University at Albany students. Additionally, pre- and post-tests will be used to assess the pedagogical strength of IL Fox.

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Collaboration

• Expert Authors

- Contribute to peer-reviewed resource
- Share knowledge with others
- Pedagogical collaboration

• Expert Reviewers

- Editorial experience
- Encyclopedia review board membership
- Pedagogical collaboration

We are currently seeking additional partners to join us in the next phase of this project, both as authors and reviewers. Authors will be able to contribute to a peer-reviewed encyclopedia, gain an opportunity to extend their knowledge to others, and be involved in a unique pedagogical collaboration.

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Reviewers will gain editorial experience, membership in an encyclopedia review board, and similarly contribute to the pedagogical value of this resource. A key aspect of IL Fox is its collaborative nature, and the sharing of expertise from a wide range of disciplines. We deeply value your contribution.

What's Next?

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- Implementation later 2013



Create Platform

- Determine Content
- Collaborate on Content
- Identify and Recruit



Author Entries/Definitions

- Expert authors
- US students



Assessment/Usability

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Please Join Us!

- Any suggestions?
- Interested in participating?

We are actively seeking input for all aspects of this project. We would love to hear any suggestions regarding content development and presentation, software recommendations, teaching and assessment tools, and more. We are especially eager to find partners for this project! If you are interested in participating on any level, or know someone who might be, we would love to hear from you!

Get Involved!

Potential Authors

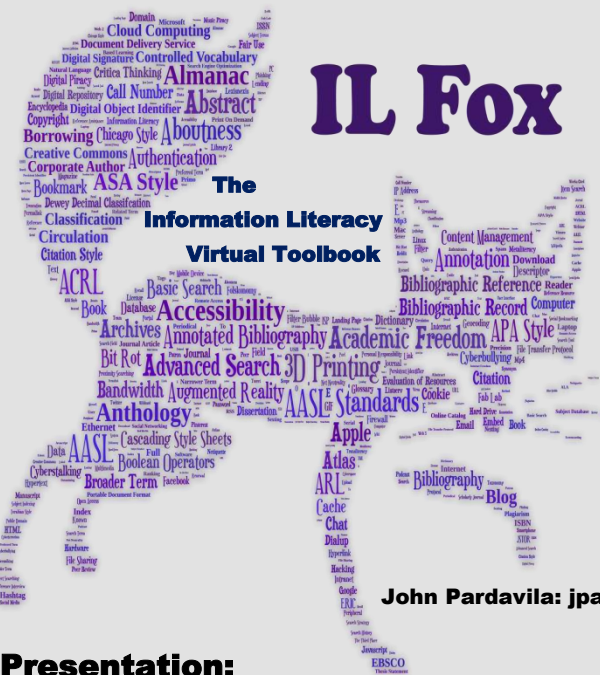


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Potential Reviewers



<http://is.gd/reviewers>



Contact Us!



Tor Loney: tloney@albany.edu



John Pardavila: jpardavila@albany.edu



Carol Anne Germain: cgermain@albany.edu



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