What literacies for the future?

a view from academic librarians

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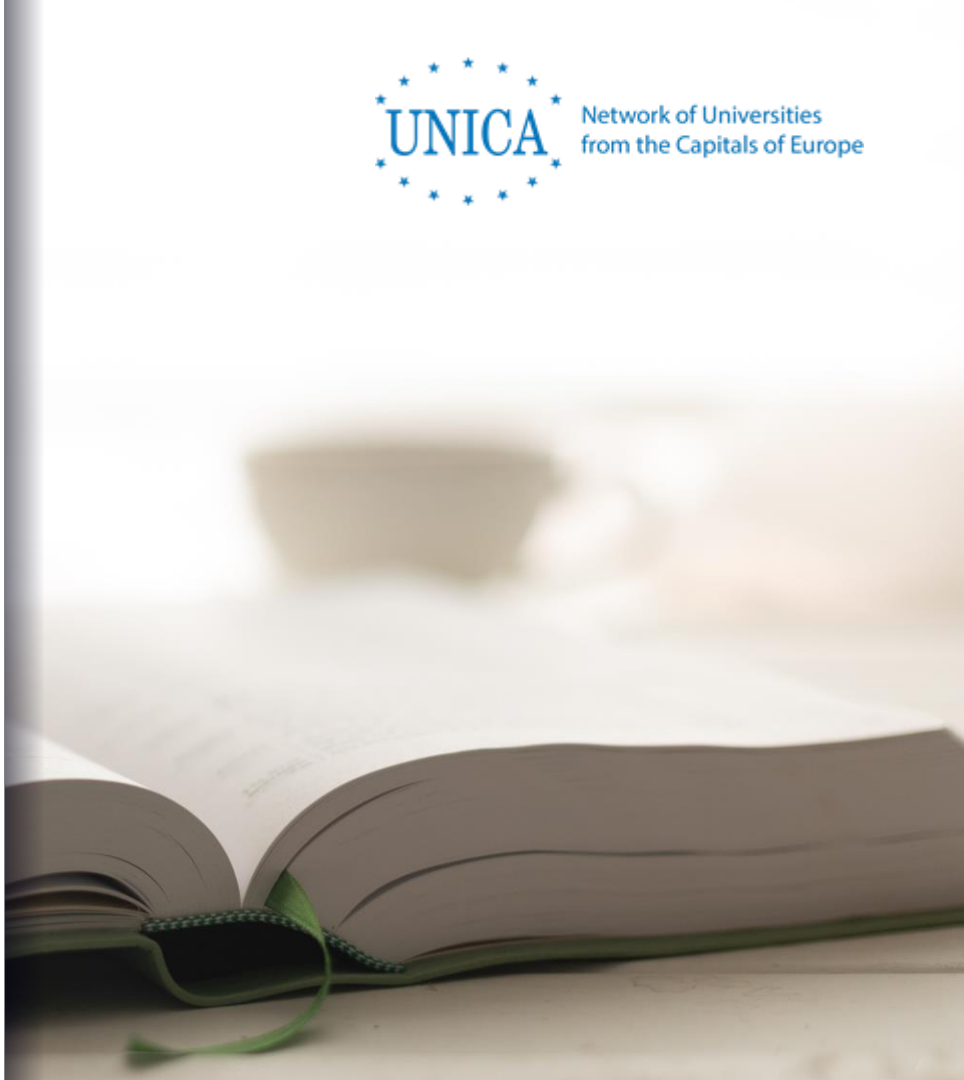
UNICA Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe



Contents

1. Information, libraries, and reading

2. Readers, digital fluency and information literacy

1.

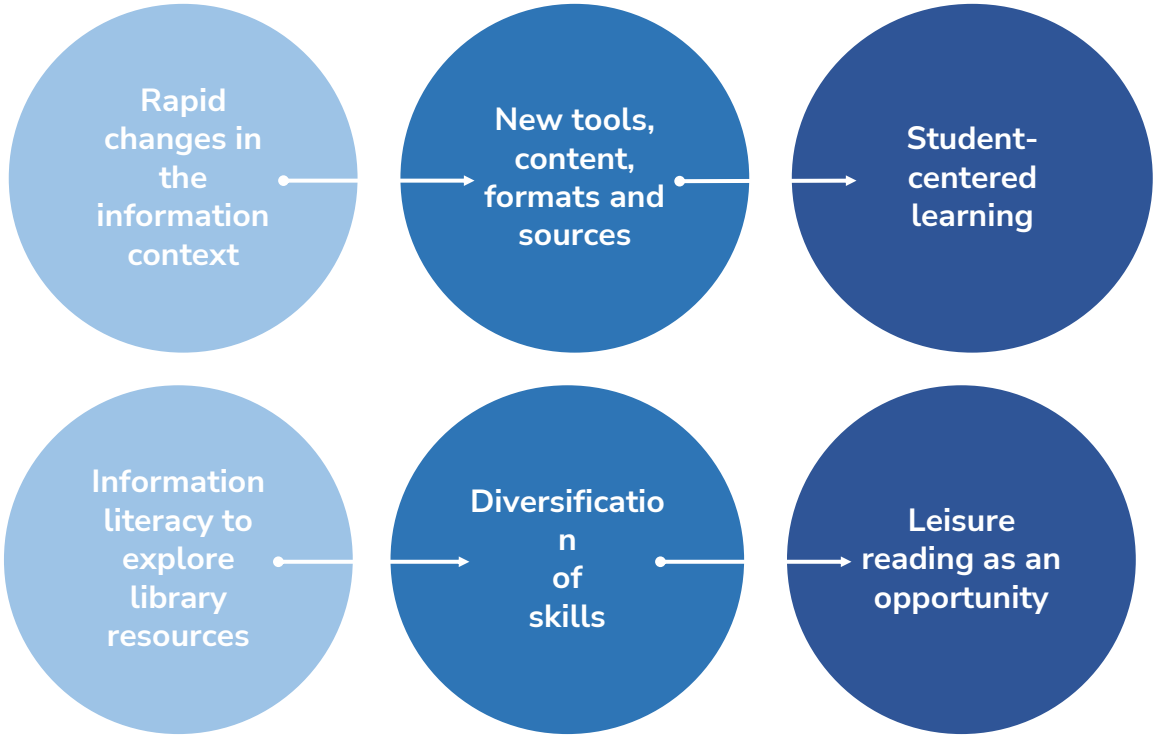
a. Information, libraries, and reading

“Reading is a social practice in transition. Immersive, reflective, personal. Sometimes stealthy, interstitial sharing. Practices of discovery and knowledge, of fun and also of sociability.

It is more present than ever, despite an anthropology of reading practices demonstrating their diversification and increasing complexity. Perhaps its omnipresence is due precisely to its contours.”

Roberto Igarza

Thinking in this context

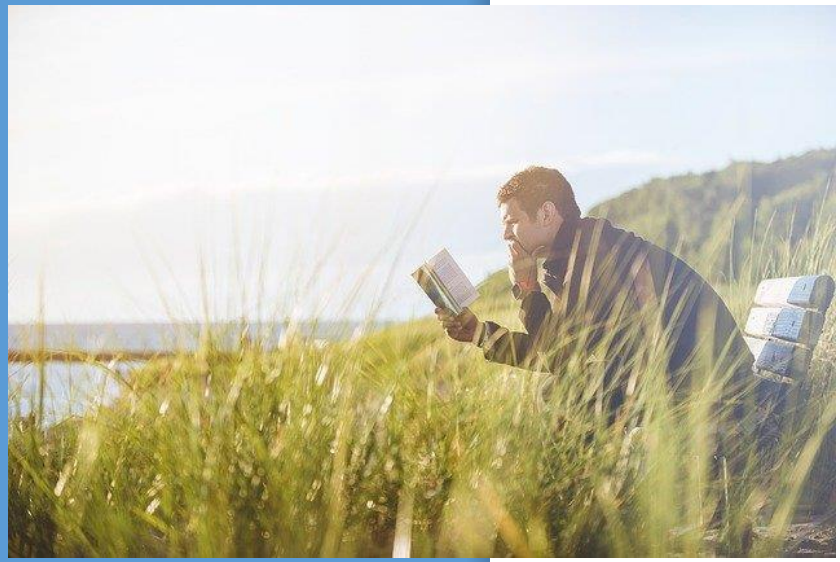


New media reading

The relationship between people and the cultural-media ecosystem invites us to rethink **cultural ecology** in terms of **participation, appropriation, production, circulation and consumption**.

In the forms of circulation, in addition to traditional actors, such as publishers and the press, the recipients themselves count.

Questions



How to develop **new reading practices** where multimedia production and consumption proliferate?

How to **build communities** in a cultural system that is experiencing a period of excessive content production?

How to gain **visibility** to potential audiences?

1.

b. Readers, digital fluency and information literacy

Readers

Hypertextuality – reading texts

Reconfiguration of participation forms and codes shaped by **different platforms.**

Readers, Reading

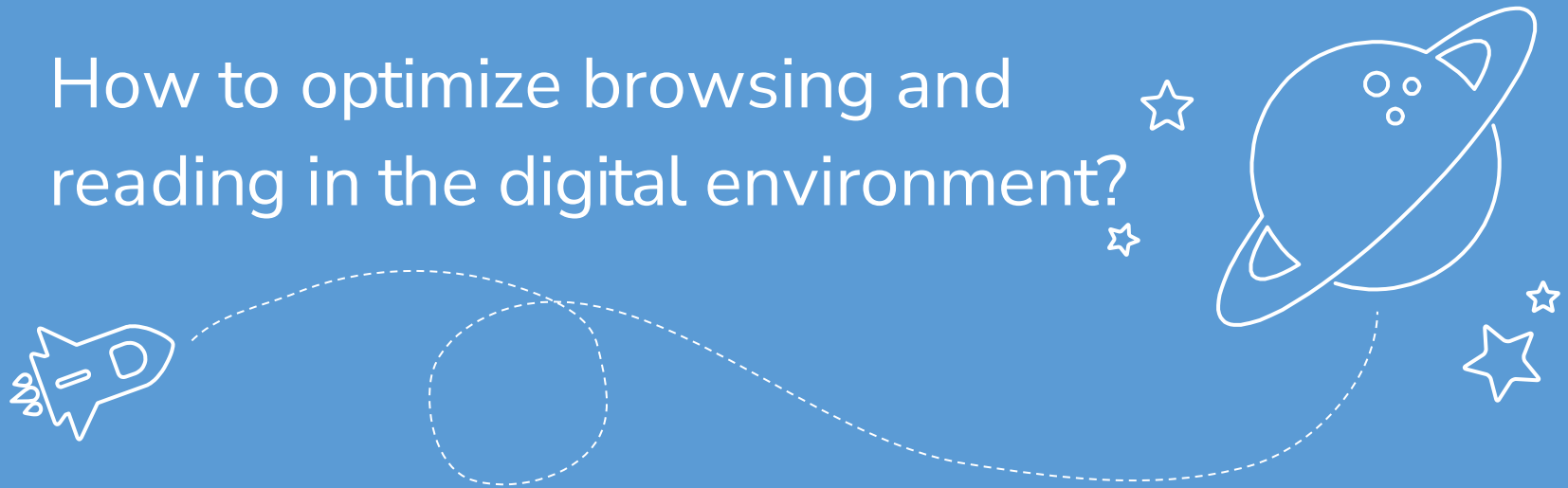
- Various supports, languages, fonts, and traditions
- Different mediations for different contexts
- New dynamics and reading interactions

However...

It is increasingly difficult to separate social or **cultural practice from technological phenomenon**, as it is to separate the act of reading from the practice of writing.

Although not always true, **on-screen**, the reader tends to become a **reader-writer.**

How to optimize browsing and reading in the digital environment?



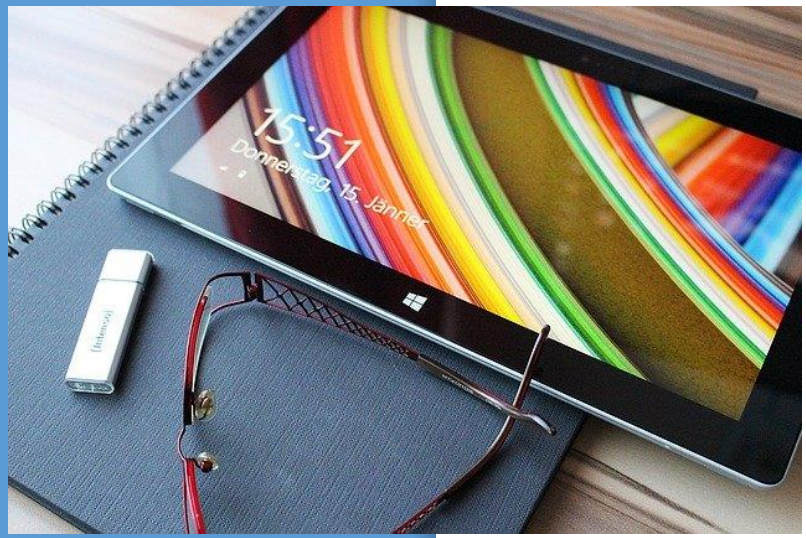
Improving Digital Fluency

Digital Fluency

Active involvement of librarians to:

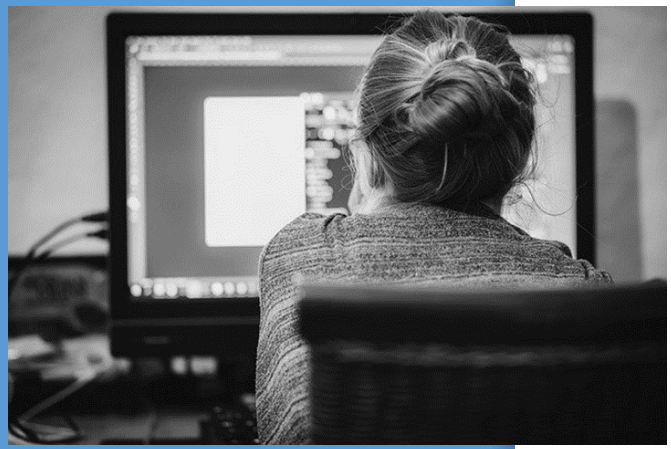
- enhance critical thinking in the face of information
- evaluate sources of information,
- check the facts,
- observation and prior knowledge, in a critical, creative and conscious way, particularly in digital media.
- social and ethical premises that underpin support for teaching and learning in the mission of higher education libraries

Digital Fluency



It is essential to promote digital fluency since the instability of the screens coexists with the stability of the book support, but in both, readings are developed.

Changes in reading habits



Cultural virtualization changes reading habits

Instant news and notices, mobile email, social media, and hyperlinks change the way the brain processes information

Causing fatigue in the face of the virtual environment

People now miss being away from the screens

Changes in reading habits

Opportunity to promote a reading culture

The dominance of screens, powered by the COVID pandemic / quick access to content / immediacy / always-on / fatigue zoom

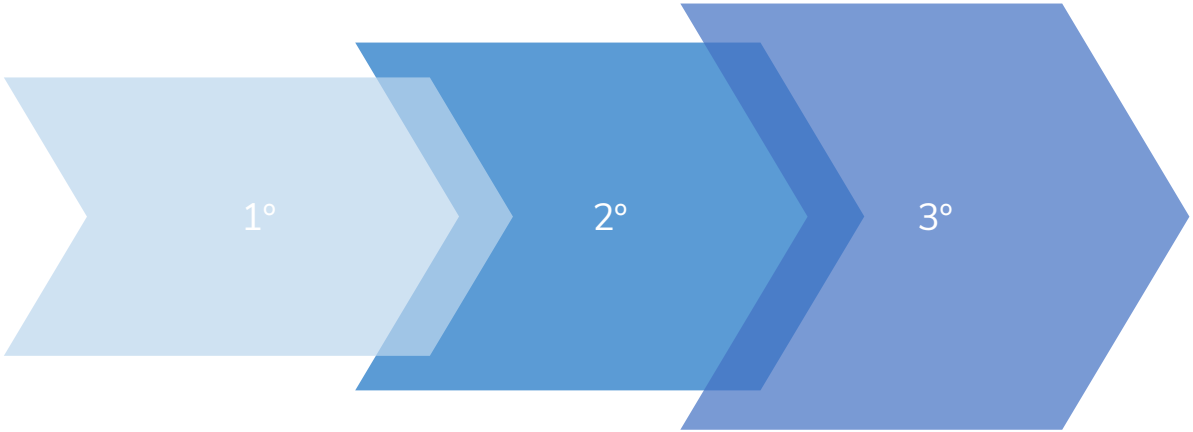
The need to switch off, slow down and return to the timelessness of the printed page

Read to learn,
Read to know

- In higher education, reading is linked to **instrumental intentions**
- Academic libraries traditionally provide **collections and resources** to meet the needs of students, faculty, and researchers.

Reading for pleasure in Higher Education?

Why?



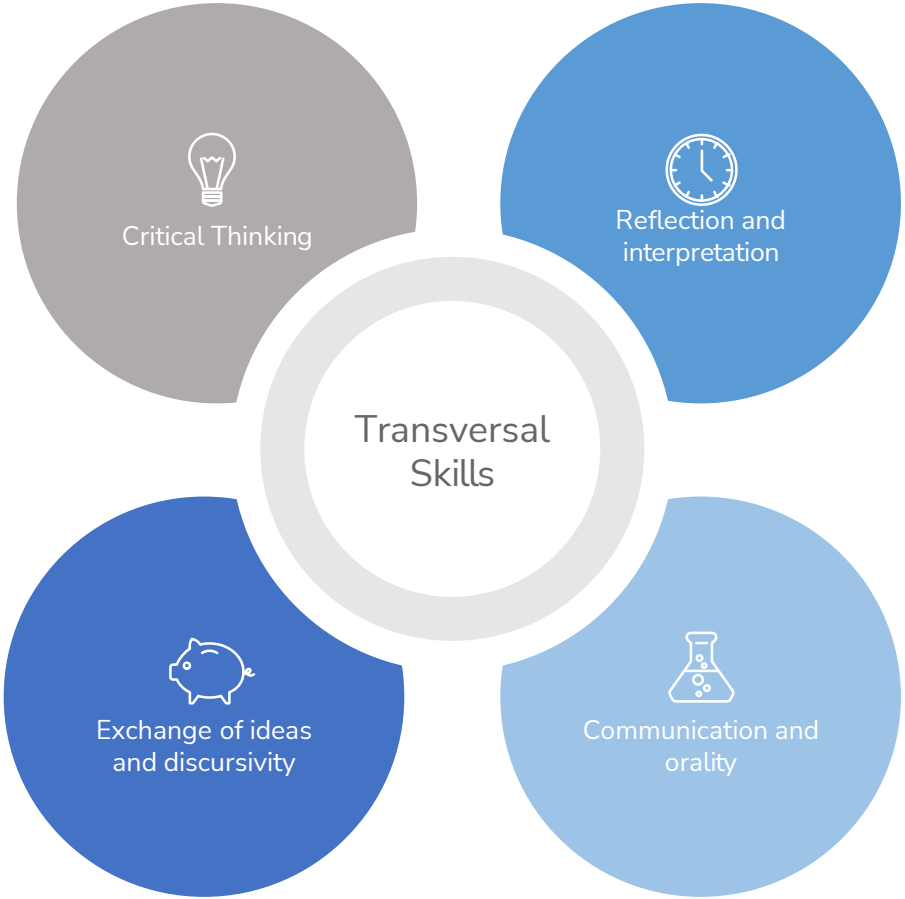
1st the strengthening of **concentration, memorization and focus** skills is done through the deceleration of reading, which also includes the literary reading of printed works

2nd literary reading contributes to the **increase of social and cultural capital**, constituting itself as an intangible asset for the individual.

3rd the **integral formation of the individual** also stems from his access to cultural goods such as literature

Reading in an academic environment

Renewed practices: Reading groups



Thinking about higher education in an integral way implies...

- inspiration
- cultural implication
- networks
- collections management
- transversal skills

This approach includes

To understand the mission and essential functions of higher education libraries

To engage in creative practices and critical reflection to develop thought-provoking questions in promoting reading

To create new knowledge through participation in communities and networks, for the purpose of learning and citizenship

To adopt a strategic vision of the integral education of the individual, at every opportunity, including leisure reading

Information access is more mediated by technologies

Emerging issues:

- restrictions on freedom of access to information or freedom of expression
- lack of knowledge to deal with technologies and digital information sources
- vulnerability and lack of preparedness regarding privacy management, digital traps, fallacies, misinformation, or fake news

Librarians' roles

What we are doing nowadays?

information skills

They must develop in themselves and in their audiences.

information and data management

They must show themselves as curators and defenders of reliable, complete, and credible data and information..

Open Science

They must be promoters of the movement, ensuring themselves as digital experts for the needed help

Scientific Information

They should make the digital context safer, enhancing the conscious use of scientific information to the wider public

Digital and Media Literacy

They must articulate context, training, and proposals to encourage safer navigation among users.

Quality criteria

That makes it possible to reuse the origin of the information, its diversity, and to believe without forgetting in what circumstances it can be in what form the information in an ethical and legal way

2.

International trends on Future Skills for Librarians

information

technologies

spaces

user requests

Open Science

transformative agreements

require new skills for these professionals

Transformative agreements

Publish-and-Read

- Costs
- Copyright
- Transparency
- Transitional

Higher education librarians should

- feel encouraged to understand the changing environment as an additional challenge,
- prepare to face emerging conditions
- face the opportunities for improvement
- take its central role in this process.

invest significantly in the development and adaptation of professional skills.

Better and updated skills will result in

- tangible benefits in reducing costs and resources for library management
- optimization of knowledge, collections and information management
- increasing user / student academic success
- amplification of the production and projection of the research carried out

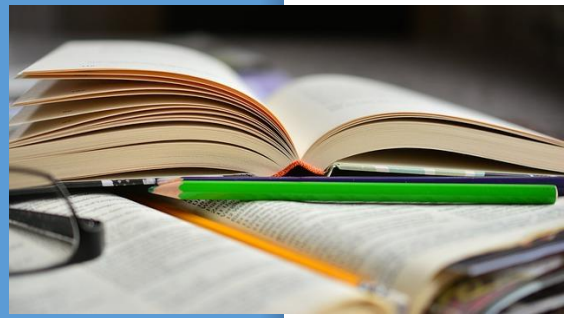
But how?

Studying international trends

LIS Professional Skills

European Council of Information Associations (2005)

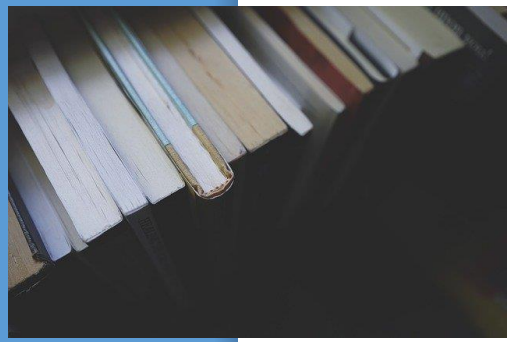
- **Information**: basic knowledge of the professional in relation to information documentation;
- **Technology**: skills related to computer and internet technologies;
- **Communication**: skills related to interlocution and internal and external communication;
- **Management**: skills related to budget, project marketing, human resources, training, and pedagogical actions;
- **Other Knowledge** (specificities)



LIS Professional Skills

Job advertisements (2008)

- certification in Information Sciences
- work experience
- skills in communication
- organization
- collection management
- teamwork
- user training and digital content management

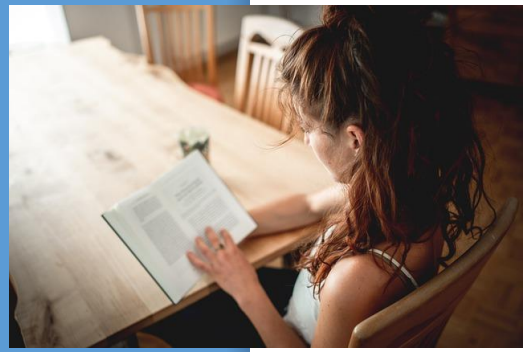


Gerolimos M, Konsta R. Librarians' skills and qualifications in a modern informational environment. Libr Manag. 2008

LIS Profiles

Joint Task Force on Competencies for Librarians in Support of Research and Academic Communication, 2018

- digital humanities
- open digital librarian (access platforms, digital files, databases)
- handle information and be up to date and moving in areas such as Big data, scientific data, routing, website management, database building, social networks, dissemination, publication, collaborative work, and issues of copyright



Research Library Association (RLA), the Canadian Research Library Association (CARL), the European Research Library Association (LIBER), and the Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR)

LIS
Domains of Professional competencies

2019

- critical thinking
- Interaction
- Relationship
- Leadership
- Presentation
- communication skills
- media literacy
- written skills 9

Yatim NM, Nasharudin N, Samsudin NF, Said SM, Tarsik NF. Recognizing the personal competencies of future information professionals. In: Recent trends in science, technology, management and social development. 2019

WEF World Economic Forum

- analytical thinking and innovation;
- active learning and learning strategies;
- creativity, originality and initiative;
- technology design and programming;
- critical thinking and analysis;
- Problem solving;
- leadership and social influence;
- emotional intelligence;
- elaboration, problem solving and conceptualization;
- and analysis and evaluation systems

Towards a reskilling revolution: industry-led action for the future of work, 2019

Important skills areas for LIS professionals

Professional Skills

Technical and scientific knowledge on LIS

Pedagogic Skills

Digital Fluency and communication hability

E-learning Skills

Constructing, accessing and make available distance information

Robinson L, Hilger-Ellis J, Osborne L, Rowlands J, Smith JM, Weist A, et al. Healthcare librarians and learner support: a review of competences and methods. Health Inf Libr J. 2005;22:42-50

Future Skills

"skills of library and information professionals will once again be recognized, especially the ability to detach ourselves from the specific content and instead concentrate on the metadata around it. ***'Find, filter, connect'*** *will become the mantra of our profession and organizations will be eager to recruit our members, to help them find a way through the mass of intelligence, which is useless without a guide and interpreter.* ***The most desirable skills will be a combination of information, knowledge and records management***

Australian Library and Information Association. Library and information services: the future of the profession (themes and scenarios 2025). ALIA, 2013

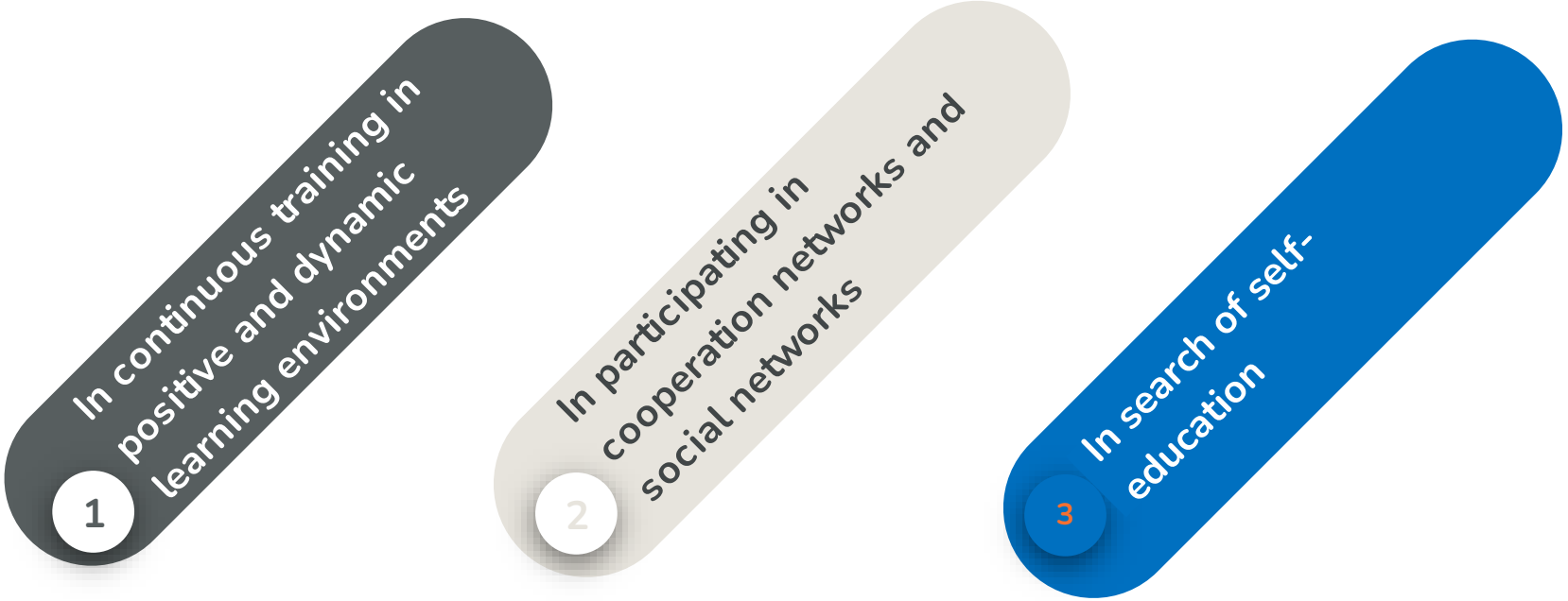
Final remarks

- Attentive and more qualified professionals enhance their performance, with advantages for the institutions and users they deal with
- More investment in information professionals = greater expertise and competence
- Best responses in reference, management of collections, spaces, human resources, and information;
- Improved teaching and research support skills

What do we need?

In-depth knowledge of information resources, terminology, methods and professional practices, in order to respond adequately to each request, in addition to a permanent update of transversal skills, which includes a visible adaptation to the requirements of Open Science, including the scholarly publishing landscape knowledge.

How?


1
In continuous training in positive and dynamic learning environments
2
In participating in cooperation networks and social networks
3
In search of self-education

Essencial Skills

Librarians offer transferable skills and specialist knowledge, in a combination of implicit curiosity and commitment to the power of informed decision-making, user focus and understanding of their users' preferred sources of information, attention to detail combined with the ability to listen, a willingness to communicate and strong professional ethics.

(Brettle & Urquhart , 2011)

Conclusions

Institutions, faculty and students benefit from the investment in skills of information professionals, translated into:

1. greater expertise and professional competence in service and answers to reference questions
2. better management of contracts, collections, spaces, human resources and information,
3. cost reduction, to drive a transition of scholarly journal publishing to open access.
4. better information literacy teaching and research support skills

Thank you!

Any questions?

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