IFLA SET PRESENTS

IFLA Section
Education and Training

Putting Emerging LIS Competencies into Education and Practice: Challenges and Opportunities

Day 1

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Education and Training Section

Thursday, 19 November 2020

15:00-16:30 CEST*

***Central European Standard Time**

From checklists to critical thinking: Updating information analysis in the age of fake news

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Outline

1. A story

2. What is lateral reading?

3. Reaching LIS students

4. Reaching librarians

5. Reaching patrons

Once upon a time in 2016…

What is lateral reading?

Using the web, as a web, to get information about unfamiliar sites, photos, videos, etc.

Lateral reading involved quickly leaving the original source to find out about it using *other sources.*

Key knowledge and skills

- **Take bearings**: leave an unfamiliar page right away to get a sense of how it fits in with the larger information ecosystem.

- **Develop a list of reputable sources**, including what others say about them.

- **Practice click restraint**. They don't get caught up in what they find interesting, but they focus on the task at hand - evaluating the reliability of a site.

- **Don't take things at face value** - including references, domain names, or About Us pages.

Key questions

1. Who is behind the information I am looking at?

2. Where is the evidence that supports the claims made here?

3. What do other sources say?

Mistakes historians & students made

- Trusting a .org

- Being impressed with abstracts, data presentation, and lists of references (without verifying anything).

- Being impressed by official looking logos and good design.

- Deep reading an unfamiliar webpage.

- Accepting the "About Us" page at face value.

- Clicking on links that caught their interest, rather than link that could tell them something about the site.

Reaching LIS students

"Students Learned What We Taught Them."

- Require *basic* information literacy courses.

- Teach professional IL standards, pedagogy, and instruction *separately*.

Reaching librarians

- Invest in lateral reading, algorithmic, and mis- and dis-information reading, education, and training.

- Use conference and professional development opportunities to up-skill librarians.

- Create workplace practices that recognize and treat librarians as information professionals.

Reaching patrons

"The idea that students will become effective web searchers after a one-off presentation is wishful thinking."

- In academic libraries, move away from one-shot sessions and revamp information analysis tools.

- In public libraries, create meaningful classes and programming to develop civic and digital literacy.

- Beyond public libraries, utilize librarians' skills in businesses, non-profits, and organizations.

Sources and resources

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Thank You

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