# Developing information literacy policies within states: the role of communities of practice

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Chair, The Right Information: Information Skills for a 21ˢᵗ Century Scotland,

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# Information skills for a 21st century Scotland



Crivvens!
Help ma Boab!
Whit's this
information
literacy?

Oor Wullie © D.C.Thomson&Co.,ltd
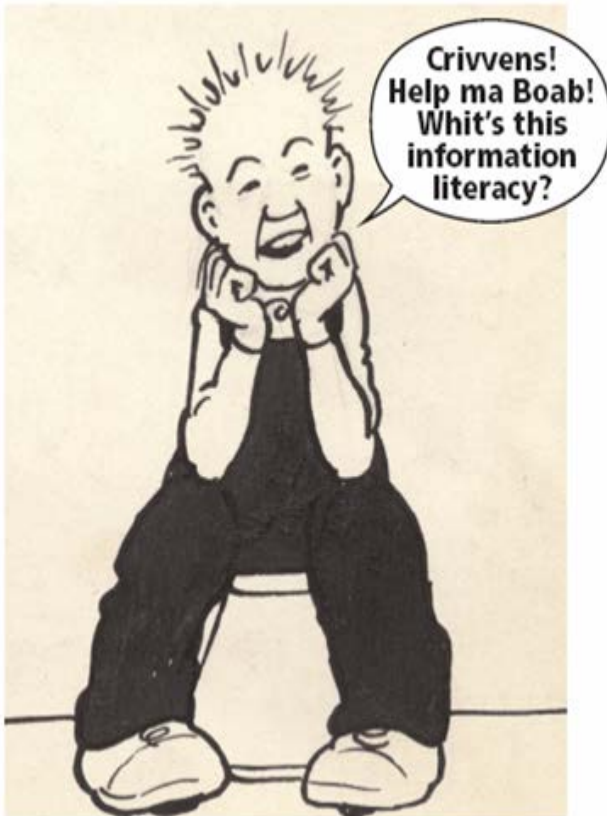
Information skills for a 21st Century Scotland
www.therightinformation.org/

Launched 11th June 2012
@ CILIPS Annual Conference in Dundee

New online information literacy community of practice: Information Skills for a 21st century Scotland.

More than a website …

Hosted by Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC)



An online information literacy community of practice
And he's back!

# Aims and activities of the community of practice

- Developing core information literacy skills in further education
- Assessing the impact of information literacy training
- Advocacy for information literacy
- Instructing teachers in information literacy
- Information literacy as an employability skill
- Information literacy toolkits for young people
- Teaching information literacy skills in public libraries
- Links between schools and public libraries
- Use of electronic information literacy resources in public libraries
- Online training packages in higher education
- Workplace information literacy skills

# Activities

- A low cost successor to the Scottish Information Literacy Project
- Founded in 2012
- Communication by blogging, email and twitter
- Face to face meetings twice a year
- Brings together a diverse range of library sectors and representatives from education and skills bodies
- Works with all relevant bodies
- Presentations, articles, blogging, advocacy, training packages

# Players and partners

- Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC), Scotland's information policy making body

- Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals in Scotland (CILIPS) the professional body in Scotland

- Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) the umbrella body for 1700 Scottish charities

# Some achievements of members

- Scottish Government Information Service - 10 things – online social media training package
- Dundee College's skills for learning, life and work course – employability and IL skills training
- Young Scot website
- Project Blaster - is an online information literacy resource aimed at 10-11 year olds
- SMILE – a HE IL resource

# Advocacy

- Presentations to fellow professionals
- Input to Royal Society of Edinburgh report
- Advising SLIC and CILIPS
- Cross Party Group on Digital Participation
- Meeting with Scottish Government Civil servants
- Meeting with Director of Digital Participation Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations
- Planning a cross sectoral conference

# Royal Society of Edinburgh report

# Spreading the benefits: vision

- The report 'vision' states:
- 'That everyone in Scotland has the information and digital skills required to participate in the digital arena and prosper from digital opportunities.
- That sustainable online and peer support for continuing learning and development of information and digital skills throughout all stages of life is in place.
- That information and digital skills are embedded across the curriculum and from pre-school to tertiary.'

# Spreading the benefits: public libraries

- The role of public libraries in the digital inclusion agenda is recognised:

- ´As a valuable resource in the drive to full digital inclusion, libraries must be supported to maintain and increase their capacity to provide public access to the online world'

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# Spreading the benefits: training teachers in information literacy

- All Education Faculties within Scottish universities should include components of information literacy, digital skills and computing science in their programmes of study for all primary and secondary teachers.'

# The challenge of digital participation

- 22% of the Scottish population are not Internet users (about 1.3 million)
- UK 'Digital by default' programme – key services to be delivered online including social security benefits
- Scottish Government 'digital first' and a devolved training strategy
- A crisis requiring a response from the information sector and a devolved training agenda

# Responding to the challenge

- A training role for public libraries – all 32 public library services have digital champions
- A National Strategy for public libraries in Scotland
- Enter the voluntary sector
- A role for information literacy
- A cross sectoral conference in February 2015 to be followed by other cross sectoral events
- Research into the role of IL in the voluntary sector

# Conclusions

- Our objectives have changed over time
- We need to exploit social media more
- Information literacy now much better understood but a problem with some professions
- Advocate at as high a level as possible
- The Referendum – a key factor in information literacy development
- Work cross sectorally and collaboratively
- Perhaps easier to advocate in a small country

# Questions?
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