Reception and application of information literacy instruction in Portuguese academic libraries

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Research question

- How is literacy instruction conducted and provided in Portugal?

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Objective

- To systematize the state of knowledge regarding information literacy instruction

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Methods

- Systematic literature review
  - selection of studies available on the Internet
  - a survey was performed, both in Portuguese and English
  - EBSCO HOST, B-on and RCAAP

- Conducted during the first quarter of 2013

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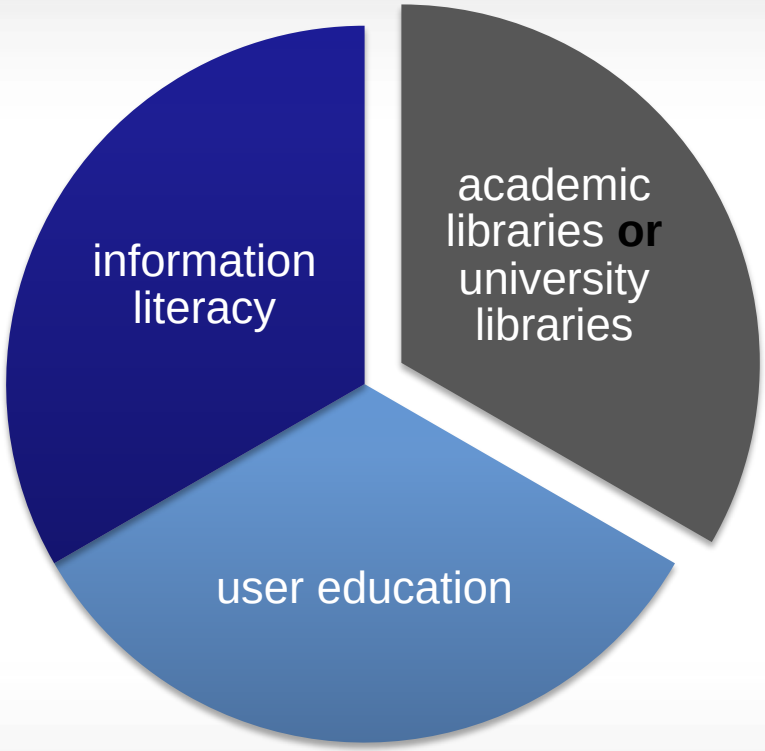
Methods

- Boolean search for:



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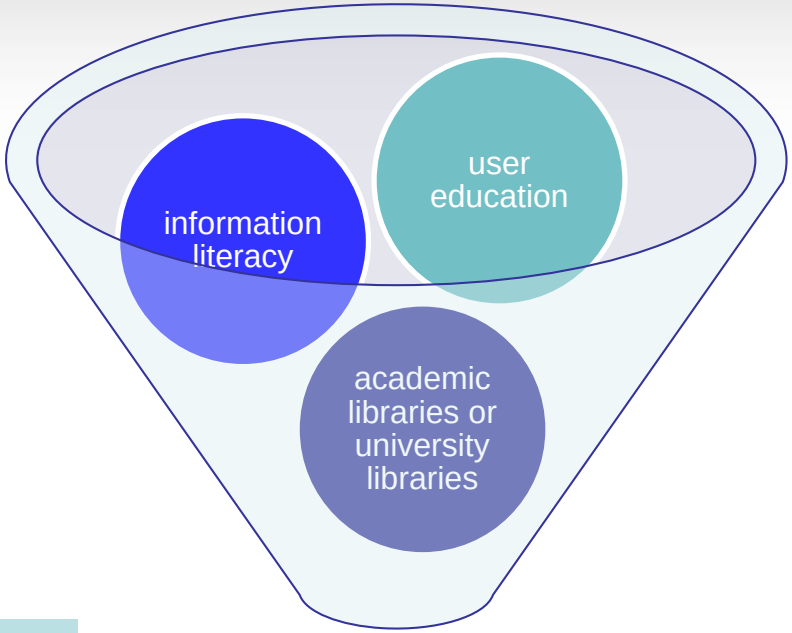
Results

- EBSCO-Host Portal: **846** articles matching



+ Portugal

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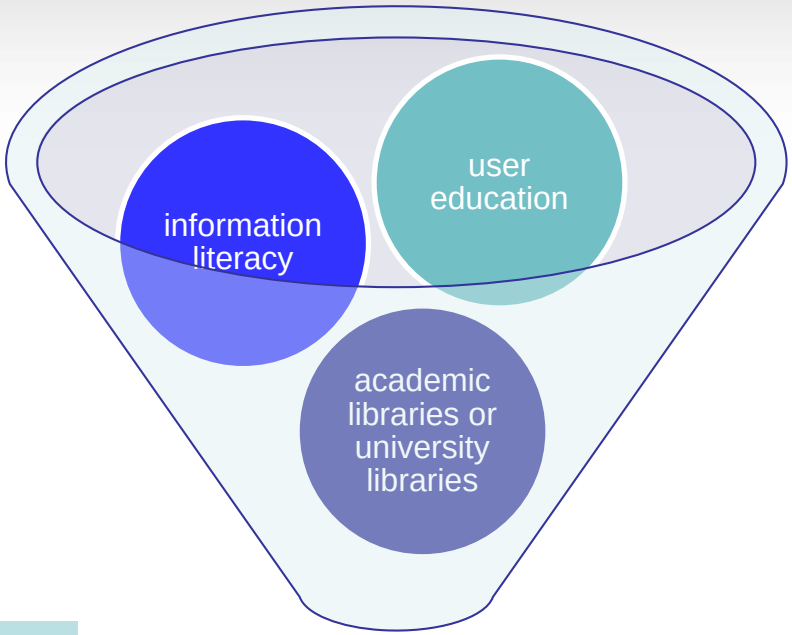
Results

- B-on Portal: **45,000** references



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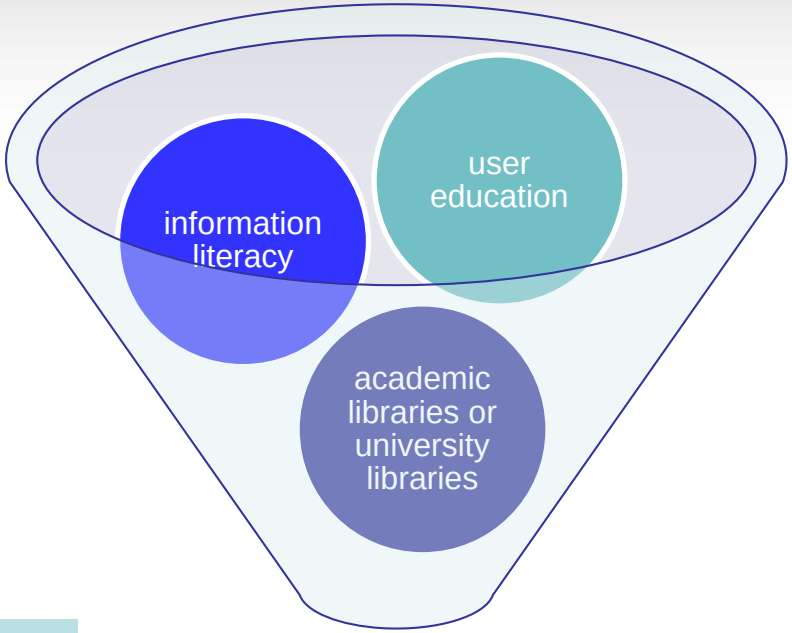
Results

- RCAAP Portal: **154** references



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Selectivity criteria

- Simultaneous matching of a set of conditions:
  - a specific subject (user education in information literacy);
  - the type of study and methodology (case study analysis of a reality by observation, survey, interviews, etc.),
  - participants (users, readers, students),
  - and context (university library).

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7 cases / libraries

- Case 1 –Minho University
- Case 2 – Algarve University
- Case 3 –Nova University of Lisbon
- Case 4 – B-on, Biblioteca do Conhecimento On-line (B-on)
- Case 5 – Lisbon University, Faculty of Medicine
- Case 6 – Polytechnic Institute of Castelo Branco
- Case 7 – Lisbon University, Faculty of Psychology and Institute of Education

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State of the art: recommendations

- To insist on knowledge, on the part of students, of existing resources.
- To develop and affirm the intrinsic value of libraries for the personal and professional development of its users.
- To better communicate with target audiences.

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State of the art: recommendations

- To actively disseminate training.
- To understand the multiplying effect of training.
- To affirm librarians as promoters of educational success.
- To integrate the content of training in information literacy in the curriculum.

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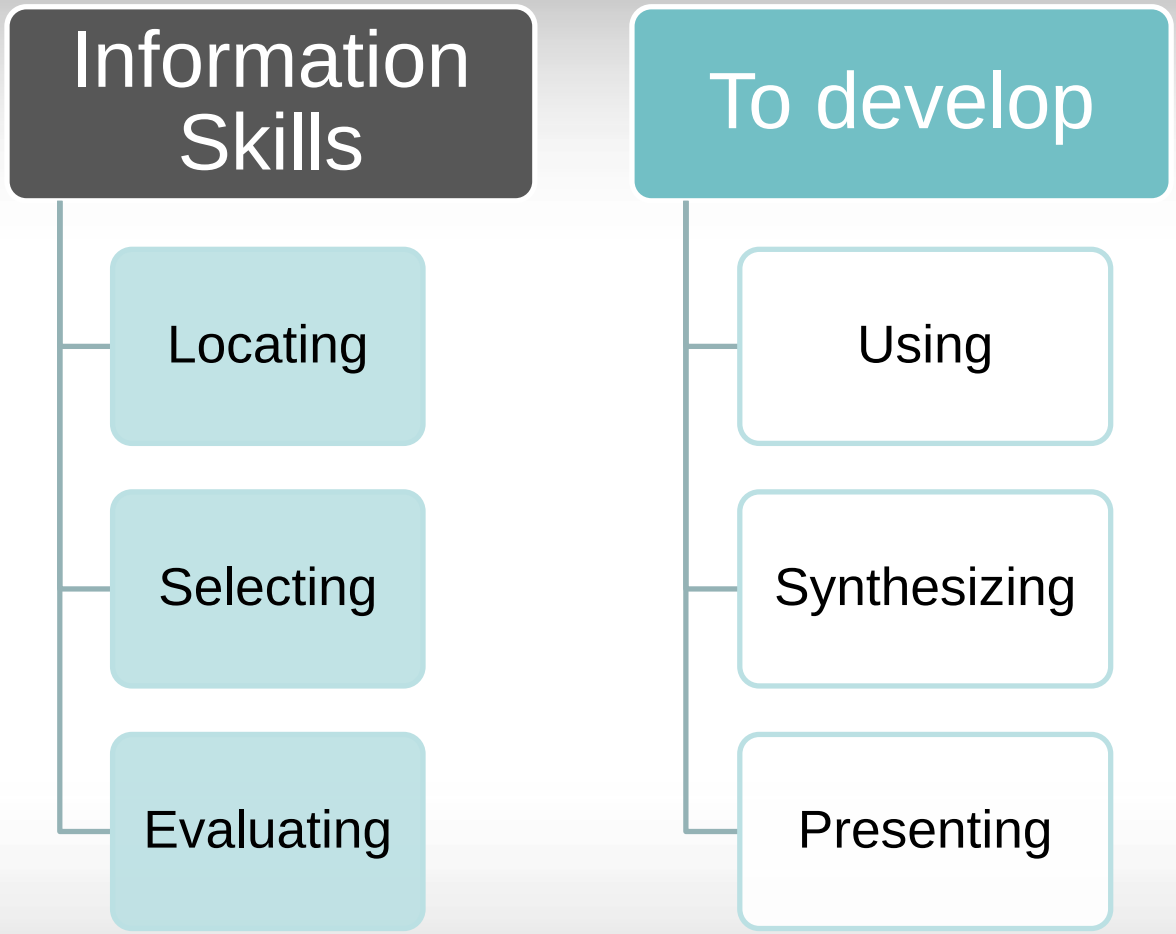
IL instruction in Portugal



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Information Skills

- Exceptions:
  - Nova University of Lisbon (Faculty of Science and Technology Library)
  - University of Lisbon (library of the Faculty of Psychology and Institute of Education),

- Their training activities are described as including ideas related to structuring a scientific work, to registering information and to writing strategies.

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Conclusions

- Role of librarians in higher education in Portugal - investigations and studies still incipient
- Training in information literacy – information scarce
- Suggestion - Creation of working groups, with common aims and activities, in order to strengthen information literacy in Portugal.

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