**Media and Information
Literacy Alliance**

Research and impact of information literacy, comprehensive review PROJECT SPECIFICATION – INVITATION TO BID

Preamble

The Media and Information Literacy Alliance (MILA) is looking to fund a research project to produce a comprehensive review (for example, systematic, narrative or an appropriate mix) of research from 2005 onwards about information literacy (IL) and society. The aims of the review are to:

1. Identify core research into the role that IL plays for different user groups in society
2. Identify core research into the barriers/enablers to shaping an information literate population
3. Map research methodologies used in the literature and which appear to be most effective

Proposals can bid for up to £10,000. Funding is provided by CILIP and the CILIP Information literacy Group (ILG). Proposals should be emailed to Stéphane Goldstein, MILA coordinator, at sg@informall.org.uk, no later than Friday 1 July 2022 at 5:00pm. Successful applicants will be notified by 14 July.

The study must be completed no more than six months from the date of its formal commencement and no later than 31 March 2023.

Rationale

A significant degree of research in the field of information literacy has been undertaken since the term was coined in 1974. A quick search on Web of Science reveals that 5,399 articles have been published since 1983 and SCOPUS reports 8,997 since 1975. Clearly a substantial contribution to knowledge has been made.

However, whilst media literacy has been well-served in terms of systematic and other reviews, information literacy has not received the same attention. Existing systematic reviews in information literacy tend to be focused on a sub-set of criteria such as a specific population and/or sector and are not comprehensive. It is anticipated that the review carried out will analyse all types of research (qualitative, quantitative or mixed).

Additionally, at policy and decision-making level it is in danger of being overlooked altogether. Neither has the concept reached beyond the higher education domain to any significant extent into areas such as health, the workplace and everyday life. IL is certainly not a term readily recognised by the public. Whereas, media[1] and digital literacies have gained more traction

recently. The funding provided here seeks to provide a comprehensive overview of information literacy, its key research, scholars, practitioners and impact. It is hoped this will provide the basis for work to create greater public awareness of information literacy and its impact.

The aims of the review are to:

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2. Identify core research into the barriers/enablers to shaping an information literate population
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Scope

A comprehensive review of existing research into the role that IL plays for different user groups in society and the barriers/enablers to shaping an information literate population. It is envisaged that the project will encompass all research-based peer-review information literacy research since 2005 across all sectors. Non-peer review research can be included but the investigators must have a clear and well-justified rationale for including any such studies. If investigators wish to include related literacies within the review (for example, digital, meta, data, information fluency) it is expected that their approach will be fully justified.

Proposals must specify a timeline and key milestones.

The work will include:

- Scope and identify search terms and strategies and identify appropriate sources of information to search
- Explain methodology undertaken to conduct the review and inclusion/exclusion criteria adopted
- Mapping of key themes, focusing on IL and society: in what areas does IL affect society and how?
- Mapping of research methodologies used in the literature and which appear to be most significant.
- Liaising with the project team working on the parallel project on 'Impact framework of information literacy interventions' (details available on request), to ensure complementarity between the two projects.
- Conclusions and targeted recommendations for key stakeholders including policy makers, educators, librarians and professional bodies
- Ensuring findings reach the widest possible audience

Requirements to be addressed by applicants

1.   Project Title

2.   Principal Investigator

Please include your full name, job title, institutional/organisational affiliation, postal address, telephone number and email address, along with a brief CV. Include also company and/or charity number and VAT number of the institution/organisation.

3.   Co-Investigator(s)

These will be colleague(s) who will share the doing of the research and will incur their own costs. Please include full name, job title, institutional/organisational affiliation, postal address, telephone number and email address of all co-investigators. Include also company and/or charity number and VAT number of the institution/organisation.

4.   Partners

These will be individuals or organisations involved in the research but not actually carrying it out and therefore do not incur a cost. Please include full name, job title, institutional/organisational affiliation, postal address, telephone number and email address of all co-investigators

5.   Summary of the project (Maximum 300 words)

This is to be written in an informal style to communicate the project to the wider community and media.

6.   Risk assessment and mitigations

Please state any risks you envisage on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being low and 5 being a high risk. State mitigations.

7.   Milestones and timeline

This is the detail of the project plan and can be in the form of a simple Gantt chart. The study must be completed no more than six months from the date of its formal commencement and no later than 31 March 2023.

8.   Methodology (Maximum 1,000 words)

PI to explain the project in a little more detail as succinctly as possible including how the project will be carried out. Include a detailed description methodology and methods to be employed for the comprehensive review

9.   Outputs and dissemination strategy (maximum 500 words)

How will you make sure that your work and its findings reaches the widest possible audience, particularly beyond the library and information sciences community? This might include all or some of the following: seminars, blogs, webinars, conference papers, press releases, YouTube etc.

To support dissemination, outputs could usefully include:

- A peer review journal article aimed at Quartile 1
- Presentation of findings to MILA Board
- Presentation of findings to ILG and CILIP
- Presentation of findings at LILAC
- Summary slide that MILA can use at events to present the findings
- Could also include project updates, webpages, or a regular blog etc.
- Regular updates to MILA Board

10.   Evaluation strategy (maximum 500 words)

The evaluation strategy should seek to answer the following questions:

- How will project progress be monitored?
- To what extent were the project objectives met?
- What was the impact of the project?
- What is the added value of the project?

11.   Financial breakdown and value for money

This will include the amount requested and why, for example salary costs, travel and subsistence and conference fees. This should be in the form of an itemised list of each separate cost. The maximum allowed is £10,000.

23 May 2022