INFORMATION LITERACY: TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

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Role of UNESCO Promoting Information Literacy

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)

- Under the Communication and Information programme, an intergovernmental programme, Information for All Programme (IFAP) was formed by UNESCO

- The Information for All Programme (IFAP) was established in 2001 to provide a platform for all the stakeholders in the knowledge societies to participate in international discussions on policy and guidelines for action in the area of access to information and knowledge

The Information for All Programme seeks in particular to:

- ◦ promote international reflection and debate on the ethical, legal and societal challenges of the information society
- ◦ promote and widen access to information in the public domain through the organization, digitisation and preservation of information;
- ◦ support training, continuing education and lifelong learning in the fields of communication, information and informatics
- ◦ support the production of local content and foster the availability of indigenous knowledge through basic literacy and ICT literacy training

- ◦ promote the use of international standards and best practices in communication, information and informatics in UNESCO's fields of competence; and
- ◦ promote information and knowledge networking at local, national, regional and international level

In streamlining its effectiveness, IFAP is concentrating on three priority areas:

1. Promoting information literacy for all people

2. Strengthening awareness about the importance of preservation of information of all kinds

3. Promoting a better understanding of the ethical, legal and societal implications of ICTs

- ◦ Media and Information Literacy (MIL) is also endorse by UNESCO, having the prime focus on training the teachers to incorporate MIL in the teaching and to offer suitable pedagogical methods, curricula and resources

- ◦ To train the teachers, Media and Information Literacy Curriculum has been published

- ◦ Organization has published many publications and funding UNESCO-IFLA Information Literacy Logo Contest, International Information Literacy Resource Directory created by IFLA

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)

Information Literacy Section

Initiated by IFLA

The primary purpose of the Information Literacy Section is to foster international cooperation in the development of information literacy education in all types of libraries and information institutions

Guidelines on information literacy for lifelong learning

- ◦ The International Guidelines on Information Literacy have been compiled by the Information Literacy Section (InfoLit) of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) with the aim of providing a pragmatic framework for those professionals who need or are interested in starting an information literacy program
- ◦ The guidelines will aid information professionals engaged in educational programs, i.e., basic and higher education, in their efforts to meet their current information needs

Information Literacy Programmes for LIS Professionals

- ◦ National Institution of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR) (erstwhile INSDOC) and National Social Science Documentation Centre (NASSDOC) play a significant role in orienting library and information science professionals of the country to acquire the skills of access to information

- ◦ At the school level the organizations like National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT) and State Council of Education Research Council (SCERT) conduct regular orientation programme/refresher courses for the school librarians

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2. UNESCO. Retreived from https://en.unesco.org/programme/ifap on 17/04/2020.

3. IFLA Guidelines. Retrieved from https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/information-literacy/publications/ifla-guidelines-en.pdf on 18/04/2020.

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