IL in the professional literature

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For ‘The Road to Information Literacy: Librarians as Facilitators of Learning’

IFLA CPD&WL and Information Literacy Sections satellite event, Tampere, Finland, 8-10 August 2012
• Focus on Emerald journal *Reference Services Review*

• It has published reviews of the literature, then annotated bibliographies for more than 35 years

• IL is covered mainly in the LIS and Education literature

• Emerging trends
Published an average of 40 articles each year (over 4 issues)

49 per cent of the articles published were on information literacy and library instruction

Academic librarian authorship dominates (98 per cent of articles published had at least one academic author)

Usually from large institutions (enrolment >5,000 students)

Only 17 per cent on average, from outside North America

Source: Katy Mahraj, RSR 40/2 2012
RSR thematic trends 2006-2011

- Methods of assessing the effectiveness of IL instruction, and capturing the evidence efficiently and effectively
- Use of technology as a tool in IL instruction e.g. social media functionality, screencasting, games
- Librarians collaborating with partners in educating students (embedded IL)
- Reaching out to/serving diverse populations
- Use of learning theory to inform instructional design
Growth in the literature driven by developments in education and technology (Rader & Johnson, *RSR*):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No of publications covered</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>287</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>288</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
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<td>2008</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>512</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Percentage of library instruction and IL publications about different types of library (Rader & Johnson, *RSR*):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Academic</th>
<th>Public</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Special</th>
<th>All types</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>64</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A search on *RSR*'s e-journal database

Using the term 'library instruction' yields 5,421 results
- 3,057 of these after 1999 (56 per cent)

Using the term 'information literacy' yields 6,492 results
- 5,349 of these are in articles published after 1999 (82 per cent)

This is to be expected given the evolution of this area of practice as documented in *RSR*'s annotated bibliographies (pre-1995 they were literature reviews and were of 'library orientation and instruction' publications)
Themes identified in the literature - 2009

Beginning of a more global perspective (publications from outside N. America)

20 per cent of articles covered some aspect of collaboration, e.g. with faculty, writing instructors

Use of screencasting, gaming, and the connection between critical thinking and IL

Student perception and behaviour in relation to IL

Source: Anna Marie Johnson, RSR
Discipline-based IL instruction, covered by non-librarians and published in the non-library literature

Health information literacy for special populations, e.g. refugees

Implementing credit-bearing IL

Online instruction embedded in courses

Source: Anna Marie Johnson, RSR
Themes identified in the literature - 2011


Information literacy in the workplace

Implications for IL instruction, of the differences between actual information seeking behaviour (Webanalytics) and virtual reference questions received

Continued recognition of the importance of collaboration

Health information literacy

Composition Studies field providing a different perspective on how the research process should be taught
RSR competitors

- *Communications in Information Literacy* published twice per annum since 2008. Average of 11 articles per year

- *Journal of Information Literacy* has been published twice per year since 2007 (when it published 3 issues). Average of 12 articles per year
Recent themes in CIL and JIL, not covered in *Reference Services Review*

**Communications in Information Literacy**

Developing as a teacher-librarian

IL instruction evolving to focus on the development of transferable knowledge/critical thinking skills

**Journal of Information Literacy**

The role of IL instruction in the changing HE world

Faculty and HE institution attitudes to and perceptions of the role of IL

Placing IL instruction within a broader range of literacies (academic skills/training, information and digital/media literacy)
There is a gap in the information literacy literature:

HRD for teaching and teaching management

ACRL’s *Standards for Proficiencies for Instruction Librarians and Co-ordinators* (2008) are not universally applicable – their relevance depends on the setting.

Look to the wider literature – of Education and Management.
Questions?