Fostering an Information Literacy Culture

Mindsets, Skillsets, Settings and Specifics!

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Hong Kong Baptist University Library
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Working Definitions for Today
Information Literacy Definition

Regular, wise use of best-suited information to build, change, and/or challenge knowledge in support of decision-making, problem-solving, and growth.

Not just an ability or a skill, but also a practice and a mindset.
Culture Definition

set of shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices (wikipedia)

philosophy, practices, and attitudes of an institution, business, or other org (oed)

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Goals/Outcomes of Session

- Uncover the SKILLSET for your specific context
- Create the MINDSET via organizational goals
- Foster the SETTINGS & SPECIFICS
1) Uncover the Skillset

What skills or attributes do users/staff need to have?

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HKBU Graduate Attributes ...

Knowledge
Thinking
Communication
Skills
Learning
Citizenship
Teamwork
... Underlying IL Concepts

...maintain up-to-date knowledge
...make judgments about information
...integrate, synthesize differing viewpoints
...place own opinions & ideas in the world of others
...nurture and feed an inquiring spirit
...apply information skills to daily problem-solving
...keep aware of global issues, to act responsibly
LIBcmor Inc. Staff Attributes ...

- Expertise
- Judgment
- Mess-Tolerant
- Multi-Focal
- Social

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... Underlying IL Concepts

...expertise that is constantly updated
...informed planning & decision making
...see through/organize mess; use for new ideas
...narrow, broaden, relations, new perspectives
...use team to build and share information
Exercise #1 - Uncover the Skillset

Think of your own organizations …

- Think of three attributes that would be valued in your users or staff
- How would information literacy support/enhance those attributes?
2) Create the Mindset

Define what “IL” means locally

Make desired practices explicit and rewarded

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Define what “IL” means locally (and call it whatever you want!)

- Identify and use highly relevant information to do what? (make decisions, provide best service, inspire innovation …)
- Do what with information? (Create it, find it, archive it, share it …)
- What other activities are highly dependent on information literacy?

Make desired practices explicit, known & rewarded
LIBcmor Inc. Info Strategy

- Identify and use information to inspire innovation
  - Lead “idea incubators” based on market & competitor research
  - Identify relevant ideas and strategies from other sectors

- Create, modify and share info and knowledge
  - Contribute to organizational knowledge sharing platform
  - Invite relevant collaborators across org. boundaries

- Employ methods for regular, ongoing learning
  - Structure and streamline current awareness services
  - Identify & utilize partners for shared learning
Exercise #2- Create the Mindset

Think of your own organization...

- List one defining characteristic of IL in your context, e.g. what does it mean locally
- List two explicit practices related to the above characteristic
3) Foster the Settings & Specifics

What regular practices already use IL? What practices can benefit from an IL mindset?

What activities, initiatives, users call out for information?

What spaces would be conducive to fostering an IL culture?
## Regular Practices

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<th>Regular Practices</th>
<th>HKBU</th>
<th>LIBCmor Inc.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Already use IL skillsets</td>
<td>Student research assignments</td>
<td>Organizing incoming information</td>
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<tr>
<td>Could benefit from IL mindset</td>
<td>Promotion of lifelong learning</td>
<td>Administrative decision-making</td>
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Activities, Initiatives, Users

HKBU

- New General Education curriculum
- International Office Activities
- Research Assistants

LIBcmor Inc.

- Global expansion plans
- Executive Assistants
Physical/Online Spaces

HKBU
- Learning Commons – Learning Events
- eLearning platform
- Website, Facebook, etc.

LIBcmor Inc.
- Open office/Collaborative work spaces
- Social media work space
Exercise #3- Foster Settings/Specifics

Think of your own organization …

- What practices already use IL? What practices could benefit from an IL mindset?
- What activities, spaces, initiatives, users would benefit from your involvement?
- What kinds of involvement would you like to offer?
IL Defined – one more time ...

Regular, wise use of best-suited information to build, change, and/or challenge knowledge in support of decision-making, problem-solving, and growth.

Not just an ability or a skill, but also a practice and a mindset
One More Time …

1. Uncover the needed SKILLSET – defining IL for your specific context

2. Create the necessary MINDSET – explicitly mapping IL to organizational needs/practices

3. Foster the SETTINGS & SPECIFICS – building places/spaces for IL in your organization
Kiitos / Thank You

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