

Understanding the Information Literacy Concept

Defining the IL concept is a base for explaining and understanding its content, and also for formulating the goals of IL, standards, and practical scope of information education.

The mostly cited definition of IL was issued by [ALA](#) (American Library Association) in 1989: „Information literacy is a set of abilities requiring individuals to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information." <http://www.ala.org/acrl/standards/informationliteracycompetency#ildef>

This definition is being used by other national or international organizations involved in IL, e.g. ANZIIL (The Australian and New Zealand Institute for Information Literacy), or NFIL (National Forum on Information Literacy).

Some organizations work with their own definition. [CILIP](#) defines IL: “Information literacy is knowing when and why you need information, where to find it, and how to evaluate, use and communicate it in an ethical manner”.

Some other locate the IL position in the life-long learning process. UNESCO stated in [Prague Declaration](#) (2003): “Information Literacy encompasses knowledge of one’s information concerns and needs, and the ability to identify, locate, evaluate, organize and effectively create, use and communicate information to address issues or problems at hand; it is a prerequisite for participating effectively in the Information Society, and is part of the basic human right of life-long learning“.

The IVIG working group adopted the CILIP definition (2004, updated 2012) that clearly formulates the IL content in addition to specifying basic competencies of information literate person, explanation, notes, and examples.

Information literacy is knowing when and why you need information, where to find it, and how to evaluate, use and communicate it in an ethical manner.

This definition implies several skills. We believe that the skills (or competencies) that are required to be information literate require an understanding of:

- A need for information
- The resources available
- How to find information
- The need to evaluate results
- How to work with or exploit results
- Ethics and responsibility of use
- How to communicate or share your findings
- How to manage your findings

See: CILIP: Information Literacy Skills

<http://www.cilip.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Information%20literacy%20skills.pdf>

[Použití definic informační gramotnosti v práci komise IVIG](#)