

Recommendation for Finnish universities - Information literacy in academic studies

The following information literacy recommendation has been drafted in cooperation between Finnish universities. Information literacy (IL) refers to the ability to recognize the need for information, to search and locate information and to evaluate and use information critically and ethically.

The purpose of this recommendation is to attend to the significance of information literacy and to justify the financial resourcing of IL teaching as well as the need for its integration as part of academic studies. The aim is that every student who moves to working life, will have information literacy skills that help him or her to act in the information environment of a modern society, and that he or she will maintain these skills.

IL AND SOCIETY

1. IL skills are recognized as socially significant skills essential for studying, research and in working life, and their acquisition requires teaching and instruction also in universities.

According to a report completed in 2011, IL skills are deemed in all sectors of working life to be among the most important skills acquired in university. (Kunhan kuluu viisi vuotta: ylemmän korkeakoulututkinnon suorittaneiden työurat / Antero Puhakka & Visa Tuominen (toim.); mm. s. 71-73).

2. IL teaching is carried out in cooperation between the different quarters of education, educational levels and libraries.

It is important to see the information society competence, to which IL also belongs, as civil ability which has to be strengthened further. It requires broad cooperation of all parties involved. (Koulutuksen tietoyhteiskuntakehittäminen 2020. Opetus- ja kulttuuriministeriön työryhmämuistioita ja selvityksiä 2010:12; mm. s. 14-17 ja EK:n koulutus- ja työvoimapolitiittiset linjaukset vuoteen 2015).

IL AND UNIVERSITIES

3. IL teaching is included in the academic curriculum in all Finnish universities.

The curriculum enables the systematic teaching of IL. With its help IL teaching will form a controlled and harmonized whole which supports education and research. (Yliopistojen kaksiportaisen tutkintorakenteen toimeenpano, Opetusministeriön työryhmien muistioita 39:2002).

IL AND STUDENT

4. Every student has an equal opportunity to receive IL teaching at different stages of their studies.

Universities guarantee that every student (graduate, postgraduate and international students, remote students, etc.) will be provided with an impartial opportunity to receive IL teaching irrespective of their subject.

5. Information literacy is included in the curriculum at four different levels.

Universities of Applied Sciences

- new students
- vocational studies
- research studies/thesis stage
- The Master's degree of Finnish universities of applied sciences

Universities

- new students
- bachelor studies
- master's studies
- doctoral studies

Further information

This recommendation is based on the EMPATIC project recommendation *Information Literacy in the Higher Education learning sector (HE) – recommendations to policy makers*. EMPATIC is a project supported by the EU's Lifelong Learning Programme.

This recommendation complements the IL curriculum recommendation: *Recommendation for universities for including information literacy competency in the new degree structure*, accepted by the IL steering group on June 4th, 2004.

Translated in English by Kristiina Hintikka