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# InformAll – changes at the Research Information and Digital Literacies Coalition

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Research Information and Digital Literacies Coalition (RIDLs) has re-cast itself as InformAll, with clearer objectives, better defined benefits of joining the organisation and a remit that goes beyond the realm of higher education.

InformAll exists to provide 'a collaborative, multi-agency focus for promoting the relevance, importance and benefits of *Information Literacy* in the lives of individuals as they progress through education and beyond', whether or not they all call it information literacy. This could include various professional groups other than librarians, including teachers, trainers, data managers, information scientists, researchers, professional bodies, career advisers, employers, trade unions, policy-makers and the not-for-profit sector.

The uniqueness of InformAll is that it brings together interested partners from different backgrounds, providing a means of working collaboratively to capitalise on the perspectives, outlooks and expertise of the different groups of players, and brokering creative relationships between them. It also offers a rounded view of information literacy that helps capture these various perspectives.

As a membership organisation it offers access to the know-how of experts who reflect a wide range of perspectives, encourages networking with people from different organisational backgrounds,

develops a knowledge base to answer enquiries and generally provides the opportunity to create services to promote and support a more information-literate society. Membership costs are modest and are designed to cover the costs of committee meetings, promotional material and the website – £90 for organisations and £20 a year for individuals (£10 for students / unwaged). It is an evolving initiative, so that members have ample opportunity to shape its development.

At present, many people in academic libraries probably associate RIDLs with the criteria that were produced, with significant input from the erstwhile SCONUL Information Literacy Group, to support the development of information and data literacy training resources: <http://www.researchinfonet.org/infolit/ridls/ridls-criteria/> These were tested out in various institutions and the case studies written up.<sup>1</sup> Subsequently, and following further feedback, a 'lite' version was produced, to provide a checklist that helps to diagnose how the full criteria might best be employed. Both the full and the shortened criteria provide a guide to the sort of issues that might be considered when describing or formulating training resources; those using them may wish to adapt them to suit their purposes and circumstances.

The work of InformAll is of particular interest to the SCONUL User Experience and Success Strategy Group (UESSG) whose action plan includes objectives and deliverables in the area of supporting researchers, organisational change and future-proofing, space design (physical and virtual), partnership development, understanding user requirements, demonstrating impact and value, facilitating learning, teaching and assessment, and employability. In relation to the latter, the UESSG has been keen to demonstrate the contribution of libraries to employability and the development of graduate attributes, situating libraries' 'traditional' information literacy role in the new broader academic skills landscape.

#### **NOTE**

- 1 The conclusions from testing the criteria were incorporated in the report from the RILADS project, co-funded by SCONUL – see <http://www.researchinfonet.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/RILADS-report-final-version-June-2013.pdf> [accessed 25 July 2014]