

Information Literacy Skills

What is Information Literacy?

Information Literacy (IL) is defined as the ability to recognize when information is needed and how to locate, evaluate, use information effectively and responsibly and communicate.

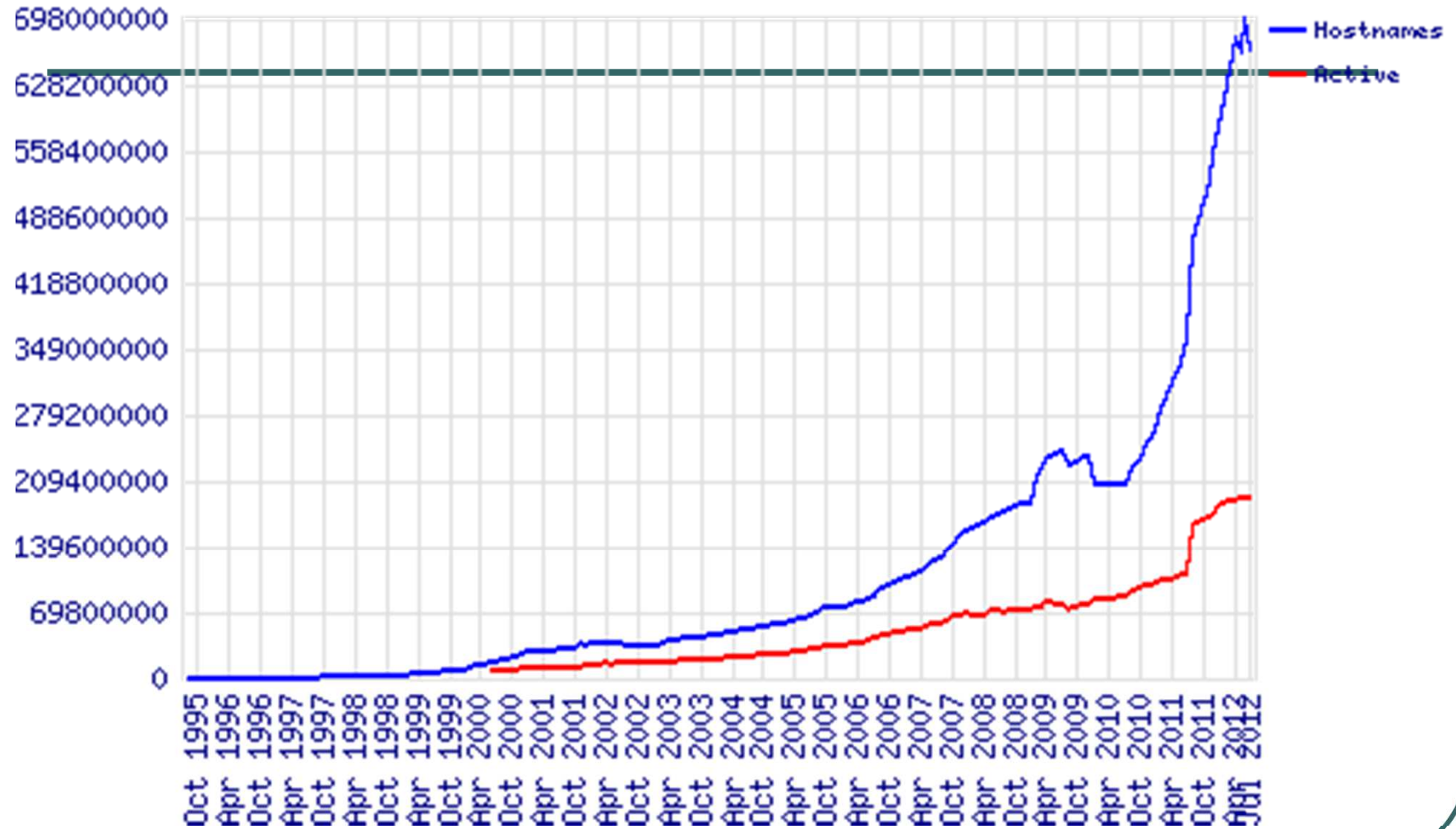
Competencies of an IL Person

- **Recognize** need for information: knowing how to clearly define a subject or area of investigation
- **Access** the needed information effectively and efficiently : knowing how to select the appropriate terminology that expresses the concept or subject under investigation
- **Evaluate** information sources critically : knowing how to analyze the data collected for value, relevancy, quality, and suitability
- **Incorporate/ syntheses** selected information in his/her information base
- **Use/communicate** information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose /create knowledge : knowing how to turn information into knowledge (ALA 1989).
- **Understand** the economic, legal and social issues surrounding the use of information: knowing how to use information responsibly by acknowledging the authors / sources of information

Why Information Literacy?

- Lack of adequate exposure to libraries and information sources for college/university levels
- Early 1990s and before
 - Information poverty
 - Print as the main source of information
 - Information found only in Libraries
- Late 1990s and after
 - Abundance/overload of information
 - Available in print, electronic, video, images and sound

Total No. of Websites on Earth



Source: <http://news.netcraft.com/>

Importance of IL in Higher Education

- Information literacy as a survival skill for the 21st Century
- University students who are information literate are more likely to be successful in scholarship and life in general
- More competitive in the job market
- Make right decisions and be able to solve problems
- Become “wise information consumers “ and lifelong learners
- Support the university mission of teaching, learning and research
- It is a basic human right in the digital world and promotes social inclusion of all nations(The Alexandria Proclamation developed at a colloquium sponsored by UNESCO,2006)

Conclusion

Information is power, but one has to have information literacy skills to dig the gold mine of information.

IL Competencies are:

- Need
- Locate
- Access
- Evaluate
- Organize
- Use and
- Communicate

These skills empower the user to:

- Solve problems
- Create new ideas
- Make informed decisions and
- Turn data into meaning to create knowledge

Conclusion... *contd.*

It is the responsibility of the entire University and particularly the librarians to help students become information literate, an essential element for efficient and effective use of information and for life-long learning .

Student's Testimony

“ I now understand that education is about being empowered to learn rather than about being dependent on the teacher for acquiring knowledge and skills ...”

Key to lifelong learning – (Harley, 2001)

References

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Thank you.