The Evolution of MIL: New Tasks or a New Literacy?

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UNESCO IITE

UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE) is located in Moscow, Russia

UNESCO Category 1 Institute (since 1997)

Mission is to serve as a facilitator and enabler in promoting ICT for achieving SDG #4

MIL is one of the focuses of activities
Media and information literacy:

- a composite set of knowledge, skills, attitudes, competencies and practices that allow effectively access, analyze, critically evaluate, interpret, use, create and disseminate information and media products with the use of existing means and tools on a creative, legal and ethical basis.

- a complex concept proposed by UNESCO in 2007.

- includes digital or technological literacy.

- focuses on different and intersecting competencies to transform people’s interaction with information and learning environments online and offline.
1. Professional development of teachers and educators
   • Localization of the UNESCO MIL Curriculum for Teachers
   • Series of publication (in Russian and English)
   • Development of the e-learning materials on MIL (in Russian and English)

2. Policy advocacy, sensitizing governments to the importance of MIL
   • Organisation of and participation in MIL-related events in Russia and abroad
Old (New) Challenges
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Algorithms of digital services

- Establish the nature, ways and formats of our interaction with services
- Work for purposes of their creators / owners
- We use the front end (while the back end uses us)
- ShadowBan, Shadow profiles
- No accountability and no ethics (algorithm for reducing mortality by managing people's nutrition)

“No information technology ever had this depth of knowledge of its consumers — or greater capacity to tweak their synapses to keep them engaged”

Andrew Sullivan, New York Magazine
What’s behind our information behaviour

- information junkies ("news is to the mind what sugar is to the body")
- hooked on easily accessible (no efforts needed), promptly available (one click) and immediate (now, but not somewhere down the road) pleasures
- sympathy = likes
  intimacy = comments / friends in common
  social value = reposts
- behavioral design, behavioral economics
  (2017 – Richard Thaler was awarded the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences)
Under the Control of... Being Humans

Thinking errors

- Familiarity = verity
- Illusion of causality
- Authority bias
- Bandwagon effect
- Filtering
- Polarized thinking
- Overgeneralization
- Curse of knowledge
- etc…
Other important issues

- Attention as the most valuable treasure and a scarce commodity (while we take it for granted)
- Clicking as a public act
- Digital footprints
- Virtual persona
- Consequences of communicating
- …
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So, what does it mean: to be MI-literate?