

# ***Information Literacy Skills***

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## **What is Information Literacy?**

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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

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**Recognize** need for information: knowing how to clearly define a subject or area of investigation

**Locate and 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/synthesis** 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?

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Lack of adequate exposure to libraries and information sources for college/university levels

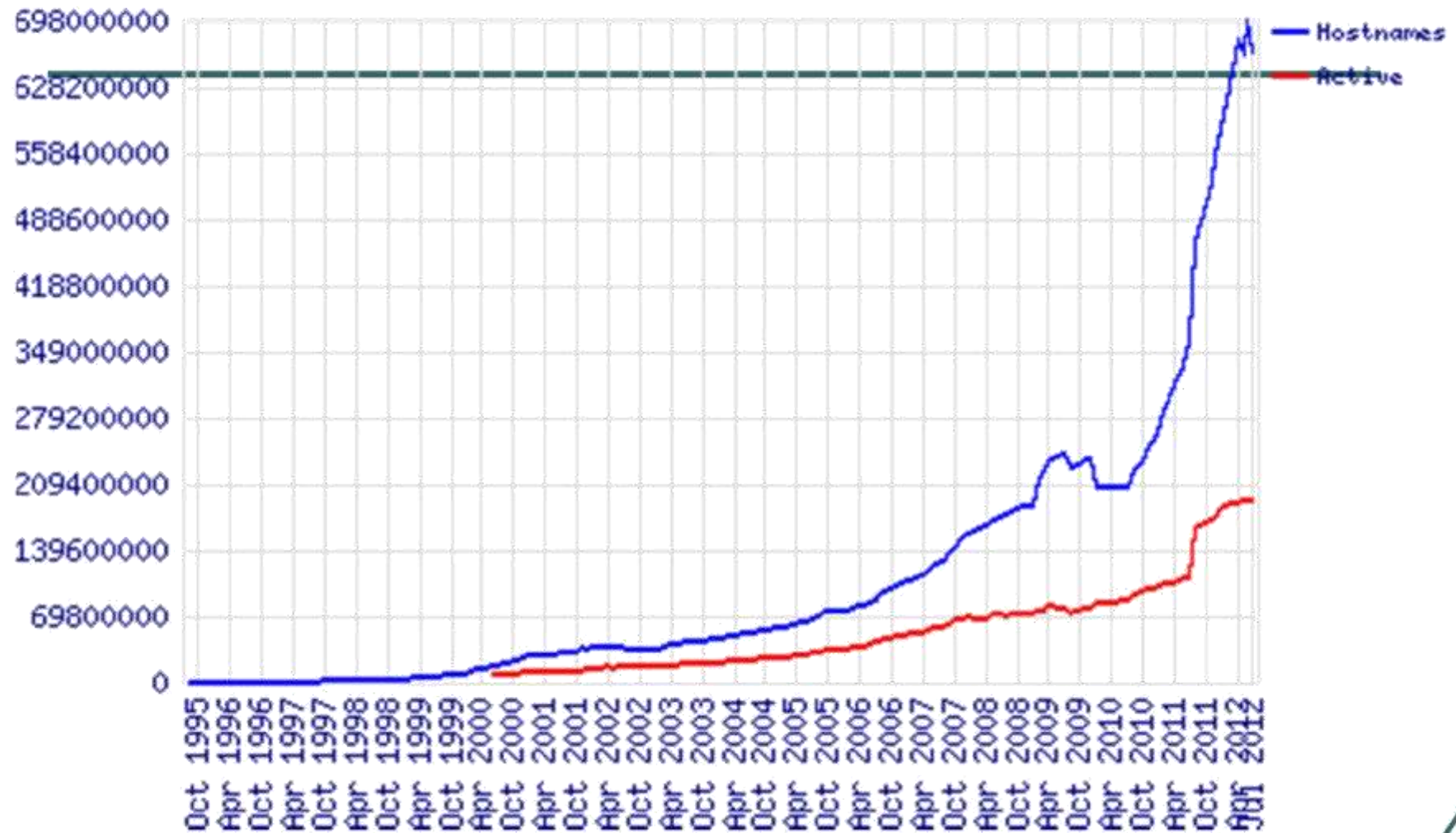
## Early 1990s and before

- 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

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Information literacy as a survival skill for the 21<sup>st</sup> 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 are 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

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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.***

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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**

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“ 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)

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