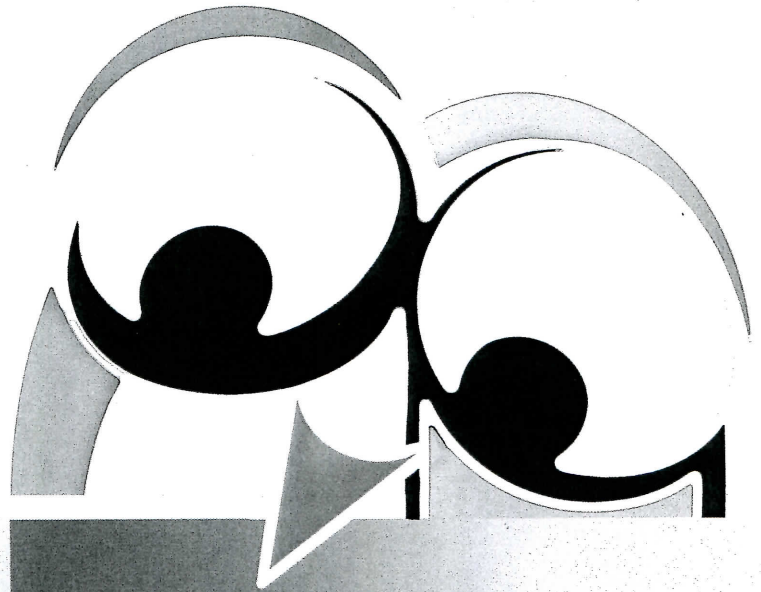




**Information Literacy Association
(InLitAs)**



**European Conference on
Information Literacy (ECIL)
Saint-Malo, France
18-21 Sept, 2017**

**Editors: Sonja Špiranec, Serap Kurbanoğlu, Joumana Boustany,
Esther Grassian, Diane Mizrachi, Loriene Roy, Denis Kos**

Abstracts

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Researchers Meeting Students and Communities: a Win-Win Agreement for Science and Society

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ISS School-Work Alternating System Working Group³, CASA Project team⁴ and Italy E-bug partner group⁵

Framework & Objectives

For centuries researchers have been concerned with the information dissemination among peers, disregarding other stakeholders who would most benefit from research results. Today, the need to communicate science beyond the scientific community is widely recognized, and citizens become part and parcel of the knowledge dissemination cycle. The objectives of this paper are (1) to show how researchers can contribute to fill the gap between science and society by communicating science outside the scientific community, using strategies, tools and languages that can be easily understood by lay people; (2) and to demonstrate the value of a multidisciplinary approach to research which needs to integrate scientific and social-cultural knowledge for a win-win agreement between science and society.

Methods

The Italian National Institute of Health (ISS) recognizes the strategic value of sharing knowledge with different targets and developed relevant actions in this regard. A selection of such initiatives is reported on to provide examples of researchers' commitment to contribute to the development of science literacy in society at large.

School-work alternating system. In 2015 a law introduced the alternating system requiring high school students to spend a period of time in a workplace (Italy, 2015). The ISS researchers considered this as an opportunity to make students aware of the value of health research through practical activities. (<https://tinyurl.com/j84hsud>). (1).

E-bug project. The ISS is partner of the project, involving 28 countries. The aim is to educate children and young people about the correct use of antibiotics, microbiology, hygiene and the spread, treatment and prevention of disease. Selected online material was translated and adapted to facilitate its use and adoption in Italy (2).

CASA project. An operational research and training project (Italy-Ethiopia cooperation) to improve the quality of care of HIV patients in Ethiopia. A training program in communication addressed to community health workers and nurses was designed in 2015, (www.casaproject.info). In 2016, 122 students were selected for training; 77 admitted to oral examination and 34 selected for additional training to become future trainers (3).

Final considerations

Researchers' commitment to improve science literacy will have a positive impact on both science and society.

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