



Bridging the Digital Divide

Digital Libraries in Information Literacy Instruction in India and Germany

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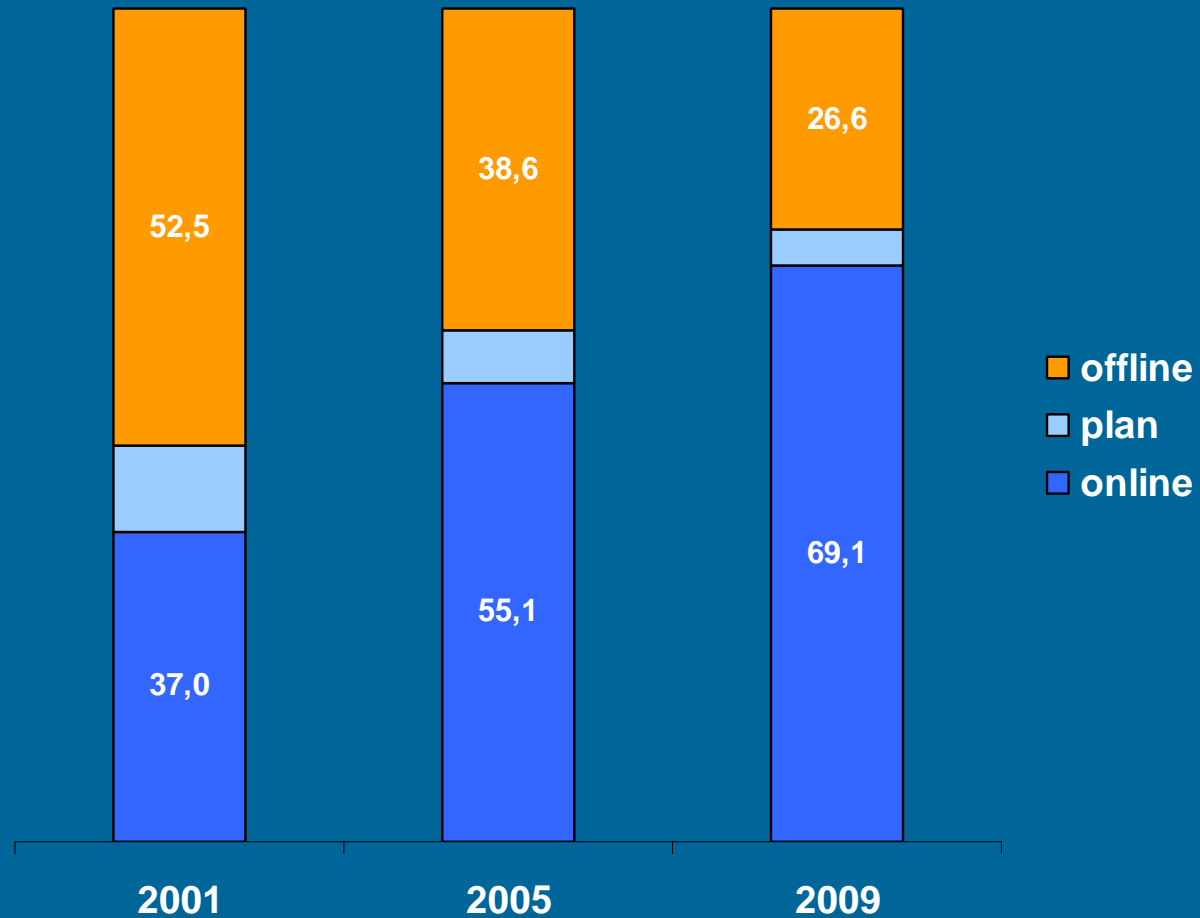
Agenda

1. Two conditions
2. Information Literacy
3. Digital Divide
4. Case studies: Germany & India
5. Bridging the Digital Divide

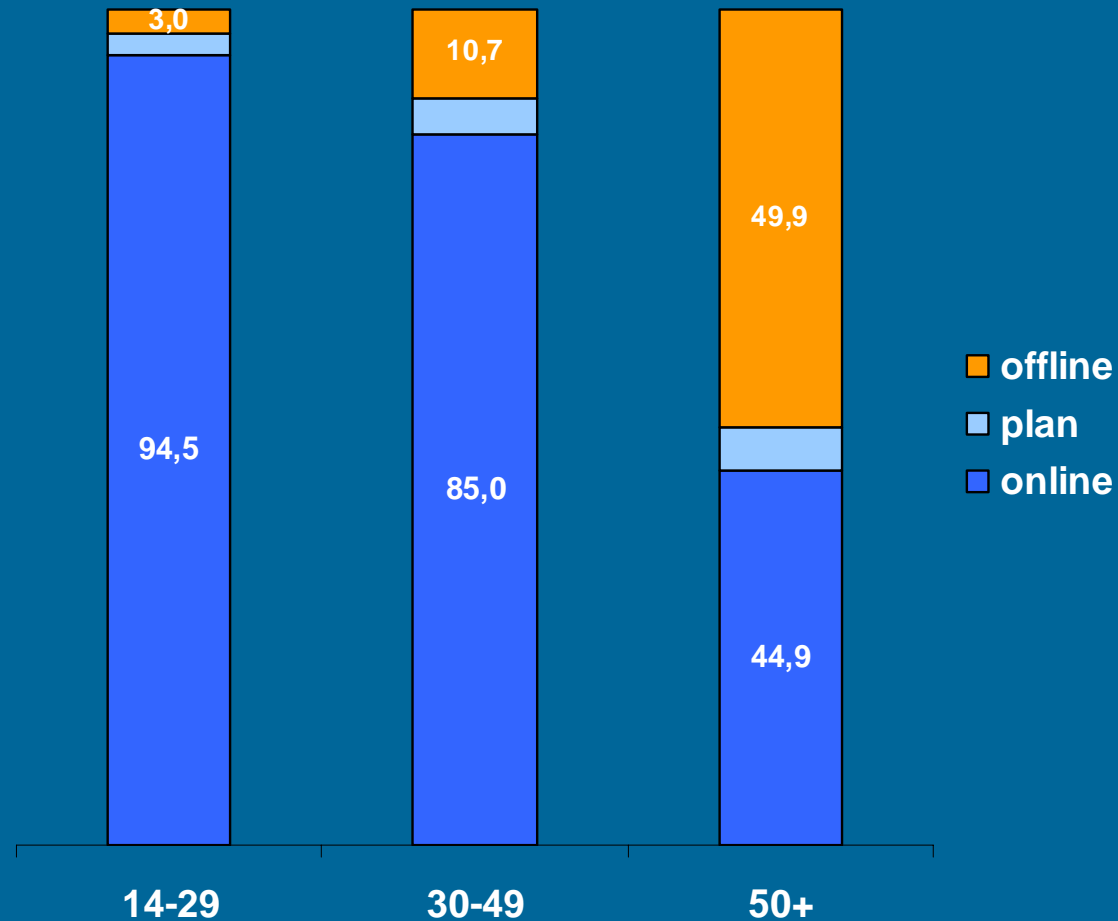
Accessing information



Germany: a big step forward



Access depends on age

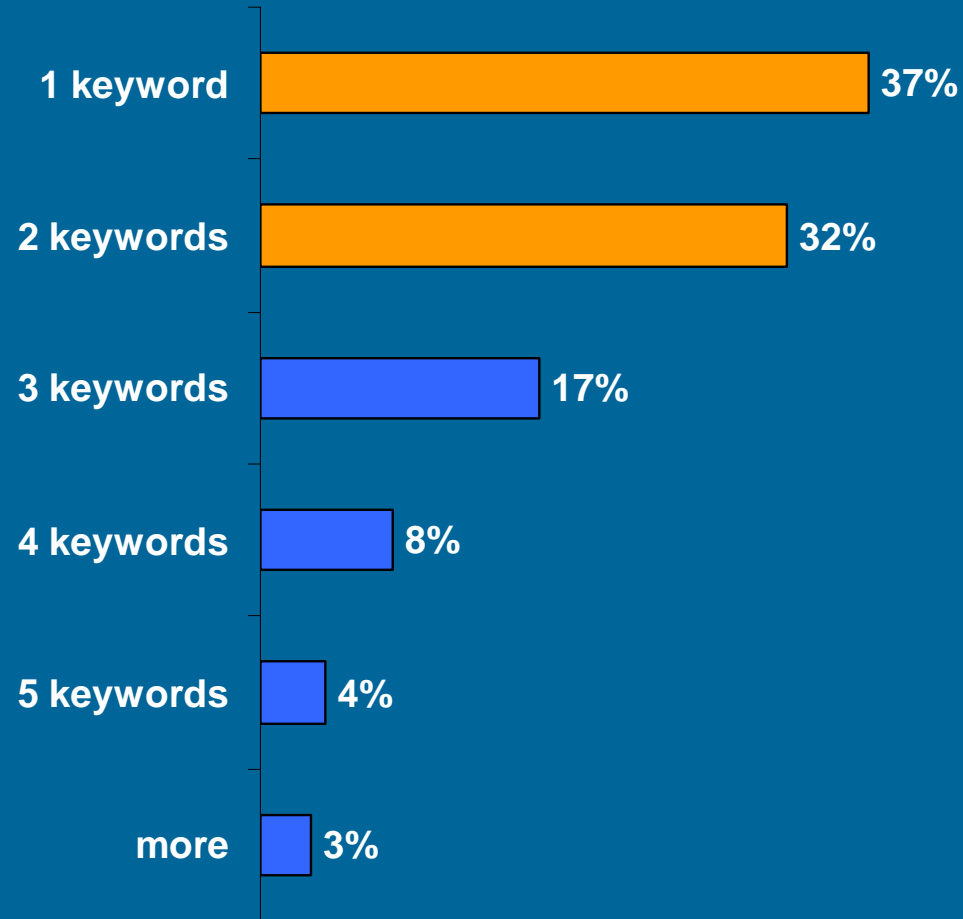


Two conditions

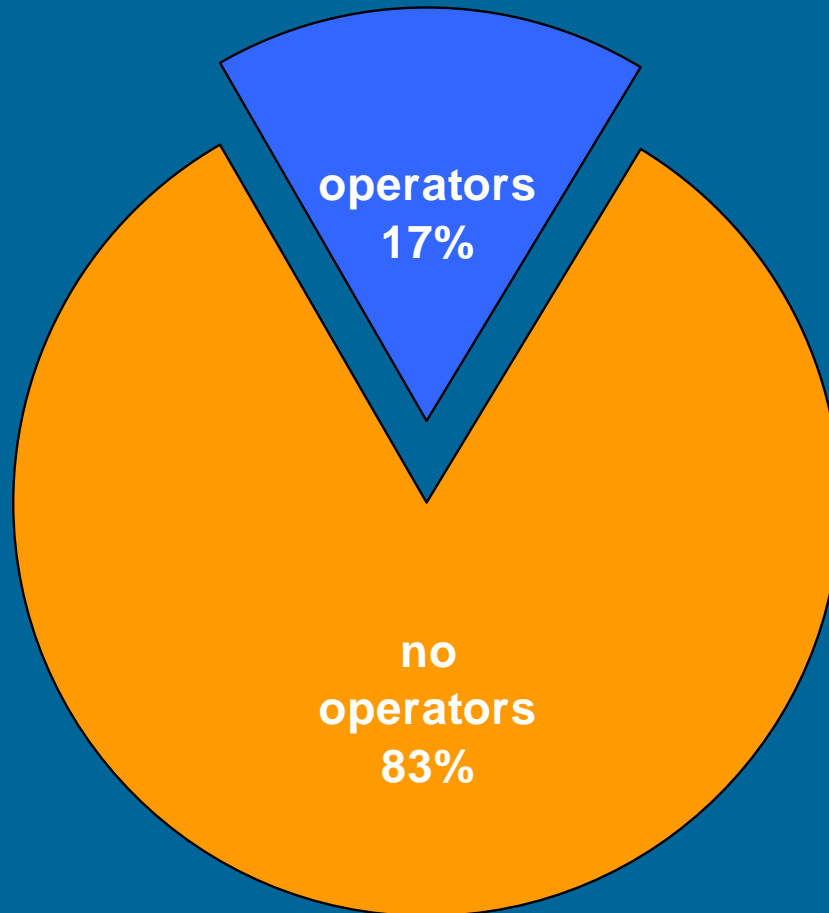
To use Digital Libraries one needs

1. Hardware and access
2. Skills to find and use information

How people search



Low searching skills

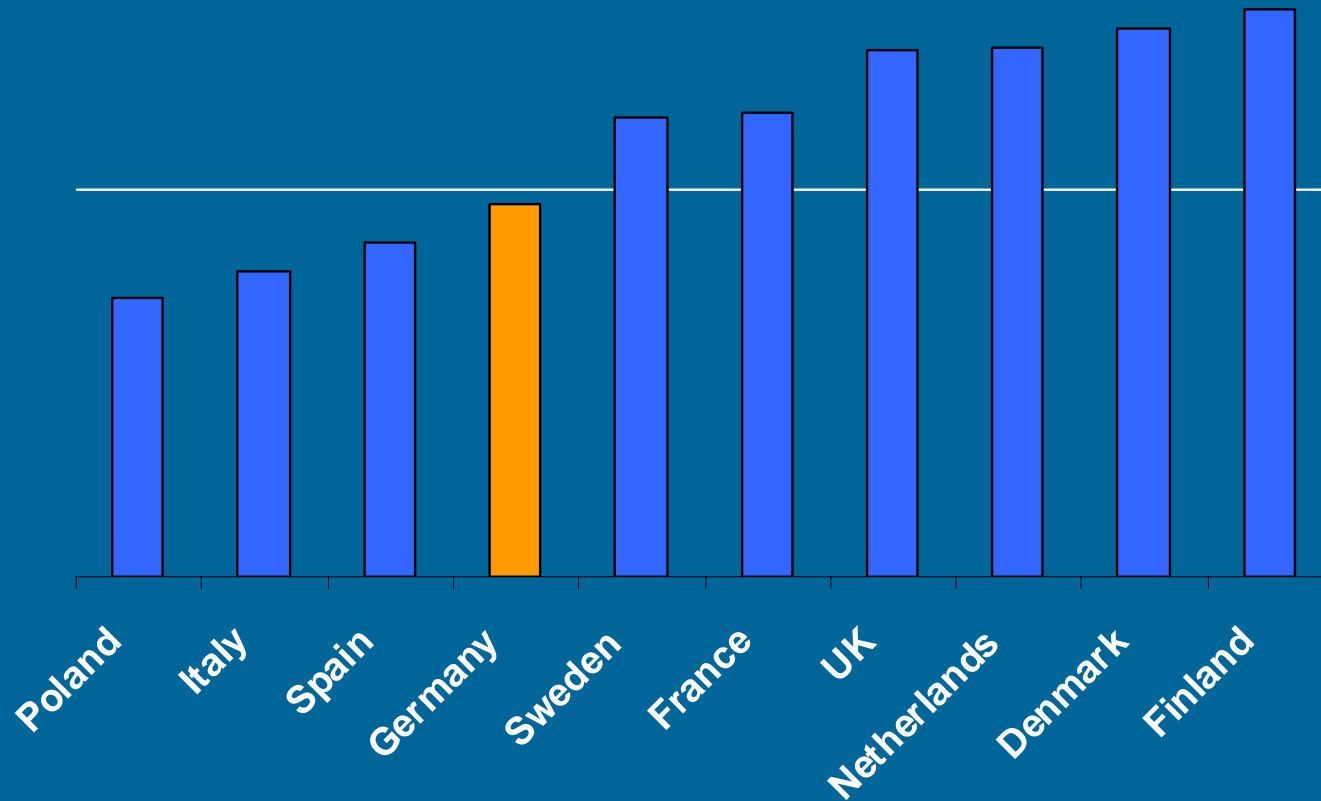


Information Literacy

*To be information literate, a person must be able to **recognize** when information is needed and have the ability to **locate**, **evaluate**, and **use** effectively the needed information.*

(ACRL 1989)

Germany: below the average



Digital Divide

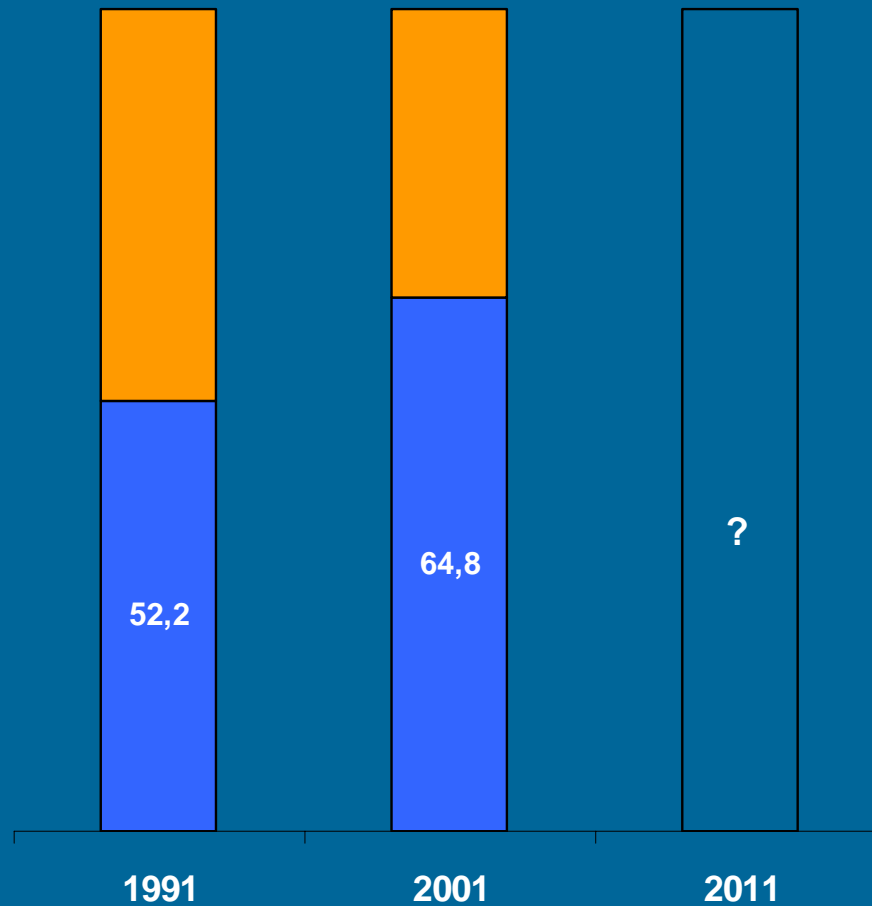
- young • old
- men • women
- developed countries • developing countries
- rich • poor
- locals/citizens • immigrants
- highly educated • less educated
- info literate • illiterate

Information Literacy skills

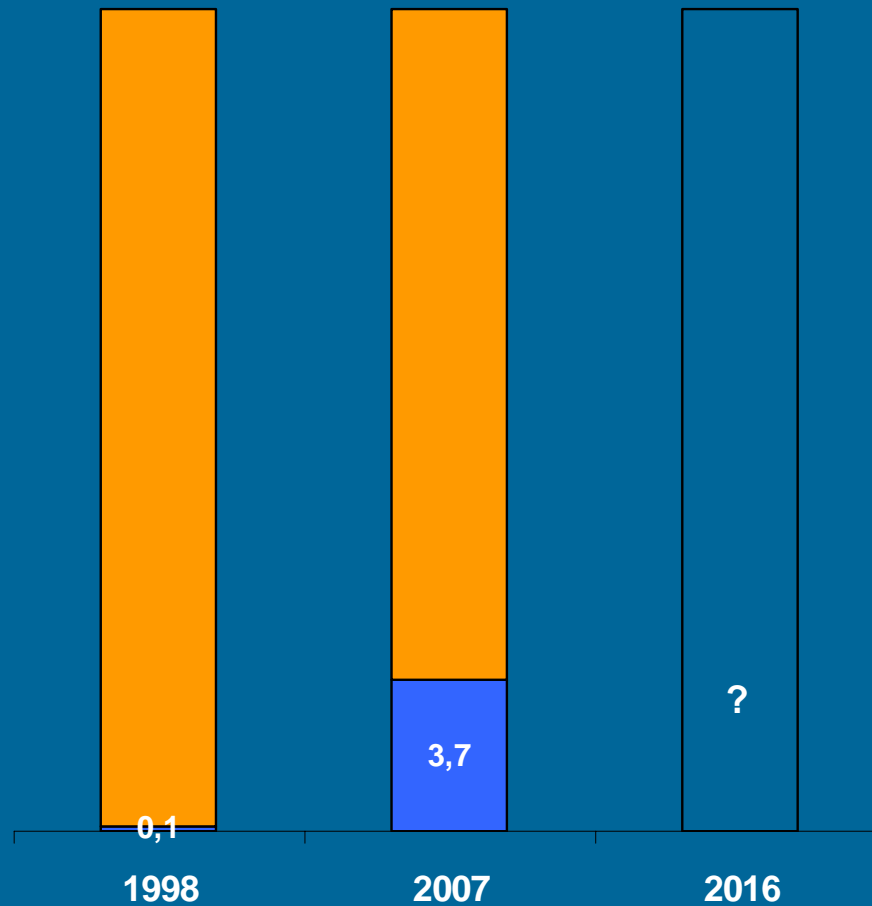
lesson (90 min.)	topic
1	academic work (basis)
	define information literacy
2	library tour
	preparing search
	know information need
	search terms
	basic search strategies
3	publication types
	bibliographic data
4	library catalogue (OPAC)
5	digital libraries
	meta-search
	inter-library-loan

6	databases
	other specific information resources
7	internet searching and search-engines, specific use
8	choosing adequate information
	evaluation of search results
	reading techniques
9	MindMaps
	writing
	elements and setup of academic works
10	citation
	bibliographic description
	bibliography
	copyright
11	web 2.0
12	presentation

India: literacy rate



India: internet accessibility



Education

- Libraries / Information Centres
- LIS professionals = educators:
teaching / improving information literacy
- School → College → University → ...
Lifelong Learning

Social development

Examples: electronic payment (taxes), e-booking, online payment (insurance premium), e-banking, right to information, Automated Unique Identification card ...

- Digital Libraries: accessible 24/7
- LIS professionals = educators

Political participation

Information Literacy

- decision making + problem solving
- critical thinking
- right to information

→ Openness and Transparency

→ Strengthen democracy

Academic Libraries

The two most important issues are

- (1) the cost of building and maintaining sustainable digital library systems and services, and*
- (2) achieving the required information literacy standards so as to exploit the full benefits of digital libraries.*

(Chowdhury 2002)

Bridging the Digital Divide

1. Technical → Hardware + access
2. Educational → Information Literacy

Strategies

1. Similar to various acts.

Right to free & compulsory education act (2009)

Right to Information Act (2005) and Informational self-determination in Germany (1983)

NEED FOR “Right to Information Skills or IL Act”

2. Bridge Digital Divide – Systematic way

IL programs be integrated with **academic curricula**,

School to higher education – UG and PG as

Core learning competence.

3. Need – convince higher authorities (University Academic council) UGC etc (LIS forums – Library associations)

Strategies

Need for National forum on IL (India) as it exists in Germany since 2002 and other countries.

- To promote IL as means of
 - Individual empowerment
 - bridging digital divide
 - information Literate Society

Strategies

Need to look beyond – Simple access to
Hardware and software

Researches in IL – its role in bridging digital divide is still in preliminary stage.

More discussions, – user surveys – intensive researches are inevitable.

Role DL - reaching the un reached need to be promoted - academic, public libraries & CIC.

Conclusions

Illiterates of 21st – Know to use digital information
and Do not know

India – greater challenges-illiteracy (35%)
besides teaching IL

Need – recognize role of LIS professionals as
educators of IL – Bridging digital divide

Improve – digital infrastructure in school – public
libraries – college libraries

Conclusions

Germany – Ahead – connecting its population to internet

Teaching IL – Part of higher education

Need

- bring to younger learners
- institutions of adult education
- working people

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Dreamjay (2007): Stock photo: laptop. URL: <http://www.sxc.hu/photo/775092> [accessed on 06-01-2010] (right)
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