**Information Literacy Working Group of the Federação Brasileira de Associações de Bibliotecários, Cientistas da Informação e Instituições - FEBAB[1]: collaborations for a new awakening of Librarianship in Brazil**

*Post-Neutrality Librarianship (November 4, 2021)*

The creation of a Working Group with the theme of Information Literacy was a pioneering initiative by the Federação Brasileira de Associações de Bibliotecários, Cientistas de Informação e Instituições (FEBAB), to establish a collaborative network to pursue the promotion, development, growth and consolidation of Information Literacy in Brazil.

Created in May 2020, at the beginning of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Information Literacy Working Group (GT-Coinfo) became a space for reflection, from the perspective of the associative movement, on how to establish links between practices and academic discussions about Information Literacy in Brazil. Currently, the group has eight members - all of them librarians coming from a diverse institutional background, with different work experiences and hailing from various regions of the country. Because of that and considering the global situation caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic, as well as all the changes the quarantine and the suspension of in-person activities caused, since its inception the Group worked exclusively online, creating an environment that broke the barriers of distance among its members and the community it aims to serve.

Underlining the Group's actions, is the desire to build collaborative strategies to deal with the contemporary issues of the information society: fair use of information and knowledge; education and lifelong learning; critical thinking; social, cultural and economic development; social and digital inclusion; information and communication technologies, and sustainable development. The Group seeks to foster debates among the information professionals - in their social role as mediators and educators - about educational practices and theories of Information Literacy, and how to promote the development of critical, responsible and ethical use of information.

The Group's main goal is to open dialogue with the librarian community, reflecting and analysing the role of Information Literacy in the emerging scenario, and

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[1] Brazilian Federation of Library Associations, Information Scientists and Institutions

working  amplify the knowledge, on the epistemological and empirical foundations of Information Literacy  for Library Sciences professionals, students and teachers as well as other others interested in the theme.

The work of the GT-Coinfo focus into six lines of action:

1) Fostering discussions, studies and practices about Information Literacy in Brazil;

2) Creating teaching materials about the applicability of Information Literacy in diverse information environments;

3) Promoting courses, lectures and events on  theories and practices of Information Literacy aimed at Library and Information Professionals;

4) Mapping of initiatives and programmes for development of  Information Literacy in Brazilian libraries;

5) Participation - through its members -  in technical and academic events to build a wide network of contacts and collaboration with professionals and researchers on the subject of Information Literacy;

6) Establishment of a collaborative network for sharing actions, good practices and research on Information Literacy.

The target audience for the activities promoted by the Group are: Librarians and Information Professionals, members and non members of FEBAB; Library Science students and  Professors; professionals working in the fields related to  information e education technology; and any other parties interested in the subject.

The Group's actions and strategies aim to help the target audience in planning, implementing and developing programs and activities promoting Information Literacy, in any of the environments where it may trive/bloom: academic institutions in all levels (from kindergarten to universities); public and corporate organizations.

Aiming to sensitize librarians about their social and political role as educators, as well as to strengthen ties between the scientific and professional fields, the Group has promoted several webinars on Information Literacy with international and national researchers and professionals. These monthly online events seek to highlight the critical profile of the librarian acting with Information Literacy in their workplace, specially within the context of the Covid-19 Pandemic. The selection of the lecturers was made by the members of the group, according to their availability and based on their professional and academic contributions for the field of Information Literacy in Brazil.

The first of these events was the webinar "Perfil de competência em informação do bibliotecário no cenário de fake news e pandemia"[2] by Jesus Lau, Co-President of UNESCO's Global Alliance for Partnerships on Media and Information Literacy (GAPMIL). The main topic of the event was role of Information Literacy for librarians working in contexts emerging from fake news and the pandemic:



Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FGeKreX2Qo

Following was the webinar "Educação de usuários e competência em informação: enlaces e desenlaces" (User education and Information Literacy: connections and disconnections), by the brazilian researcher Regina Célia Baptista Belluzzo from Universidade Estadual Paulista (Unesp). She discussed the differences and similarities between the Information Literacy development practices and user education in libraries.



Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMVk_CmVVig

Next, the webinar "Competência em informação e competência profissional: convergências e divergências no que se refere às competências gestoras"[3]

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(Information Literacy and professional competence: convergences and divergences regarding management competences) was presented by the researcher Marta Lígia Pomim Valentim from Universidade Estadual Paulista (Unesp). The main discussion of this webinar was to establish the differences between a professional competence or literacy profile and a librarian's Information Literacy profile, needed for working in information centers:



Available in: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WQ7WM7GhYvk

On February, professor Elizete Vieira Vitorino from Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina (UFSC) delivered the lecture "Competência em Informação e vulnerabilidade: vamos praticar os 17 ODS da Agenda 2030?"[4]. In this webinar, She discussed how libraries can work on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda:



Available in: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBV5PWrMuMo

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[4] Information Literacy and vulnerability: are we going to practice the 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda?

The webinar "Infodemia: origem, características e consequências"[5] Professor Carlos Alberto Ávila Araújo from Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais - UFMG, happened in May, 2021. This lecture discussed the phenomenon of infodemia and the strategies adopted by many librarians made them act as protagonists in this scenario:



Available in: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6LWa4kHiew

More recently, on September, the GT-Coinfo promoted the webinar "A competência em mídia na competência em informação"[6] Professor Marianna Zattar, from Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro - UFRJ. This webinar promoted a discussion on how the different media and modes of informational dynamics are related to the notion of Information Literacy:

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[5] Infodemia: origin, characteristics and consequences
[6] Media Literacy in Information Literacy

Available in: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7Ws2XO_pE8

Aiming to expand among librarians the knowledge, views and actions on the epistemological and empirical foundations of Information Literacy, the Group publishes weekly on its social media profiles (facebook and Instagram), the series "CoInfo Indica" (the meaning loosely translates as "IL recommends") with recommendations of national and international open access texts and articles, on the various aspects of Information Literacy. For this series, members of the Group select a meaningful quote from the text, add to the bibliographic reference and web location for download. All the references featured on Coinfo Indica are also made available for download through FEBAB's Web Repository.



The GT-Coinfo divulges on its page on FEBAB's website a compiled bibliography of recommended readings on Information Literacy. This compilation is categorized into the following thematic areas:

- terminology issues;
- standards, models, programs, practices, criteria, approaches;
- policies, strategies;
- citizenship, empowerment, lifelong learning, social and digital inclusion;
- information management, knowledge management, competitive intelligence;
- teaching, training; libraries, librarians, archivists;
- media, technologies.

The main goal of compiling this list is to provide librarians and students with the theoretical basis for developing, autonomously or within an academic setting, Information Literacy related initiatives, practices and studies., It is also available for access and download on Febab's Repository a collection of materials produced by the guests lecturers and members of the Group.

In order to show the importance of the participation of librarians in social justice Initiatives, the Group, in a partnership with FEBAB's Working Group on Ethnic-Racial Relations and Decolonialities (GT-ERAD), developed the project "Diaristas de luta, diaristas de glória: apoio às trabalhadoras desempregadas e autônomas" (Daily struggle, day laborers of glory). This project was sponsored by FEBAB, within the "Emergency Development Program to Support Actions in line with the 2030 Agenda" edict. This sponsorship made available resources for selected actions proposed by FEBAB's working groups, commissions and affiliated State Associations, aimed at fulfilling the objectives of sustainable development.

The project "Diaristas de luta, diaristas de glória" carried out a timely action, in favor of reducing economic, social and educational vulnerability, through access to information and philanthropic support to unemployed and self-employed women, in special day laborers (housemaids). This action was aimed at the women assisted by the Social Collective "Movimento Olga Benário" through three of its Women's Shelters.

Members of both Working Groups distributed food baskets, medicines, alcohol gel and other basic hygiene products to the women served by the Shelters. This project also produced a *dossier* with public utility and reliable health information about Covid-19, helplines for women at risk, but also entertainment options and tips for entering into the library professions. This dossier was distributed via WhatsApp, social media and made available for download at the "Movimento Olga Benário's website.

In another action partnered with the GT-ERAD, that celebrated "Black Librarianship", the GT-Coinfo published posts explaining the use of expressions and derogatory racist terms, provoking the readers to reflect on the origin and meaning of these terms. The aim of this action was to raise a critical view of these expressions and contribute to the search for a more inclusive and respectful language.

The GT-CoInfo believes that advocacy in favor of Information Literacy is only possible from a place of community and cooperation. For that reason, it has established partnerships with Library Schools, with the purpose of awakening the academics of the importance of including Information Literacy as a required course in the curriculum. Therefore, the Group has collaborated both offering lectures to students from High Education and supporting the development of Information Literacy Programs addressing Librarians, Library Sciences students and professionals. So far now, for Higher Education Institutions have partnered with the group: Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo (UFES), Fundação Escola de Sociologia e Política de São Paulo (FESPSP), Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG) e Universidade Federal de São Carlos (UFSCAR). A brief summary of the work developed in these partnerships is presented below, and serves to demonstrate the importance of the actions of the group and how they started to affect positive change within the librarian community.

At UFES, the GT-CoInfo established a partnership with the "Graduate Program in Information Science" and with the "Grupo de Pesquisa de Competência em Informação e Processos Inter-relacionados (Information Literacy and Interrelated Processes Research Group). For the Graduate Program, a series of lectures was organized according with the profile of the students, , with the following subjects and speakers:

- "Competência em informação para a área de Ciências da Saúde: perspectivas e reflexões" (Information Literacy in Health Sciences field: perspectives and reflections), presented by Ana Paula Meneses Alves;
- "Como inovar a prática da competência em informação com as metodologias ativas de ensino-aprendizagem em bibliotecas" (How to innovate the Information Literacy practice using active teaching-learning methodologies in libraries), presented by Cristina Marchetti Maia;

- "Competência em informação: um relato de experiência na Unesp" (Information Literacy: an experience reporting at Unesp), presented by Luciane Meire Ribeiro,
- "Framework para a implementação e o desenvolvimento da competência em informação (CoInfo) em unidades de informação" (Framework for implementation and development of Information Literacy for information units), presented by Camila Araújo dos Santos;
- "Fazeres e saberes sobre o letramento informacional no contexto das bibliotecas do IFES" (Actions and knowledge about Information Literacy in the Libraries of Brazilian Federal Institutes), presented by Kelly Rita de Azevedo;
- "Competência em Informação e Midiática para a divulgação científica e tecnológica" (Media and Information Literacy for Scientific and Technological Dissemination), presented by Gabriela Belmont Farias.

For the Research Group , the GT-CoInfo has worked to support two projects for implementation of Information Literacy Programs and one extension project, both coordinated by member of the GT-Coinfo and UFES Professor, Marta Leandro da Mata. The lectures and actions of these projects are:

- Research project: "Fundamentos para o desenvolvimento de um programa de Competência em Informação: o caso do sistema integrado de bibliotecas (SIBi) da Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo (UFES)" (Fundamentals for the development of an Information Literacy Program: the case of the Integrated Library System (ILS) of the Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo (UFES).
- Research project: "A biblioteca escolar e a competência em informação: um programa de atividades voltadas para o ensino fundamental e para a Educação de Jovens e Adultos" (The school library and Information Literacy: an activities program aimed at elementary school and Adult Literacy). This project will be achieved in partnership with the Municipal Department of Education of Vila Velha in the Espírito Santo State, which has a network of school libraries.

- Extension project: "Saberes e fazeres no âmbito da informação" (Knowledge and actions in the information scenario), provides educational actions that will subsidize the activities related to the two research projects.

In partnership with the Library School at FESPSP, the GT-Coinfo offered a Seminar and a lecture. For the seminar, the group coordinator opened the event presenting the Group's actions and accomplishments followed by lectures by three other members who discussed Information Literacy in Libraries.

- "Práticas de Competência em Informação (CoInfo) com o uso de Metodologias Ativas em bibliotecas" (Information Literacy practices using active teaching-learning methodologies in libraries), presented by Cristina Marchetti Maia;
- "Letramento informacional em Bibliotecas do Instituto Federal do Espírito Santo: um relato de experiência" (Informational Literacy in Libraries of Instituto Federal do Espírito Santo: an experience reporting), presented by Kelly Rita de Azevedo;
- "Competência em Informação: um relato de experiência na Unesp" (Information Literacy: an experience reporting at Unesp), presented by Luciane Meire Ribeiro.

The individual lecture, entitled "Competência em Informação em bibliotecas: por onde começar" (Information Literacy in libraries: where to start?) was presented by the GT-Coinfo Coordinator, Camila Araújo dos Santos.

Another partnership established was with the "Núcleo de Estudos e Pesquisas sobre Recursos, Serviços e Práxis Informacionais" (Center for Studies and Research on Information Resources, Services and Praxis of the School of Information Science) at Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais - UFMG. In this instance, members of the group where invited to lecture during a number of credit courses, and talked about their expertise and experience with Information Literacy:

- "Tópicos Especiais em Ciência da Informação IV - Estudos avançados em Competência em informação" (Special Topics in Information Science IV- Advanced Studies in Information Literacy) of the Graduate Program.

- "Information Literacy" for the Library Sciences Undergraduate Program. Member of the GT-Coinfo and UFMG Professor, Ana Paula Meneses Alves participated in debates that decided for the integration of Information Literacy classes into the core curriculum of the Library Sciences Undergraduate Program.

At Universidade Federal de São Carlos (UFSCar), the Group established a partnership with the Sistema Integrado de Bibliotecas - SIBi-UFSCar (UFSCar Integrated Library System) to support the development of the "Information Literacy Program at SIBi-UFSCar". which aims, on its first stage, to improve the knowledge of the library staff about Information Literacy, encouraging integrated and collaborative work.

The program at UFSCar seeks to promote educational activities for library staff, providing the tools and abilities to plan products and services for Information Literacy development for the academic community by the University's libraries. So far, the GT-Coinfo has helped in many stages of the Program's development, from structuring the project, to participating in the diagnostic evaluation and speaking at training workshops.

In the diagnostic evaluation, two surveys were applied: one aimed at mapping the staff's competences and the other addressed to Information Literacy actions promoted by libraries. Both surveys were evaluated by the members of the Group before their application.

Later, a series of online meetings was held, in order to share experiences among members of the GT-Coinfo and the UFSCar's Library Staff, and to foster discussions on relevant topics in the field. The next stage in the Program will be focused on the development of educational strategies, based on the analysis of the results from the survey to identify the staff's strengths and weaknesses.

Since its creation, the GT-Coinfo has embraced the responsibility for promoting, from within and without the associative movement, Information Literacy in Brazil. Many actions are planned for execution during the following years, and they will establish the foundations not only for the work of the Group, but will also impact the future studies and practices for Information Literacy development in the country.

As for future activities, the Group will carry out a mapping of Information Literacy practices developed in Brazilian libraries. This mapping will seek to verify how these

practices are being developed, which frameworks or models are being applied, how the results are being evaluated, how they are disseminated and what are the possible impacts for the individuals and institutions involved. This survey will be applied and distributed with collaboration from FEBAB's Work Groups and Commissions, as well as professional associations and Librarian networks.

Another action in progress is the planning and implementation of an online course, to be offered at FEBAB's Virtual School, called "Introduction to Information Literacy". This course will have a complete curriculum, encompassing content on the fundamentals, concepts, history and application of Information Literacy in libraries. Enrollment for the course will be open to Librarians and other library and education professionals interested in the subject.

Finally, we bring on the motivating question: how to sensitize and encourage librarians to be aware that the library is a learning and rupture space that provides effective conditions to develop a critical and ethical sense in your community, based on the principles of Information Literacy?

The actions of the GT-CoInfo are aligned with the principles of Library Advocacy, as disseminated by FEBAB and the American Library Association. Based on its actions and strategies, the Group advocates for Librarians, highlighting their educational, social and political protagonism, since the Group understands that this professional, from the perspective of Information Literacy, is the main mediator and facilitator of information to the construction of knowledge and meaning, empowerment and decision making.

The intention behind all the actions, plans and strategies of the GT-CoInfo, is to inspire and instigate librarians and other library professionals in Brazil to evaluate their practices and to take part in the construction of a Librarianship that promotes Information Literacy as an emancipatory practice of human beings.

We are treading a path whose ideal is to redefine the collective thinking and attitudes of librarians about the need for an active and non-neutral social role through their performance as Information Literacy "promoters, workes, advocates", sensitizing them to the reality that the library belongs to the community and, therefore it should promote equity, inclusion, autonomy and empowerment based on the critical use of information.