Literacy, Media literacy, Transliteracy

Libraries and literacies

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What is literacy?

“Ability to read, write, and use arithmetic”
Modern definition

• “Ability to use language, numbers, images, computers, and other basic means to understand, communicate, gain useful knowledge and use the dominant symbol systems of a culture.”
We all can do that, right?

- Fact: increasing number of Europeans are illiterate in the modern sense of the word

  - Illiteracy 20%

  - Immigration, declining industrial areas and suburbs
Media literacy

- Develop critical thinking skills
- Understand how media messages shape our culture and society
- Recognize what the media maker wants us to believe or do
- Name the techniques of persuasion used
- Recognize bias, spin, misinformation, and lies
- Discover the parts of the story that are not being told
- Evaluate media messages based on our own experiences, skills, beliefs, and values
- Create and distribute our own media messages
- Advocate for media justice
There are less and less secrets.
But the truth is hidden among misinformation
Reading media is more challenging than ever

- Today everybody has a media
- From public opinion to private bubbles
- Media crisis: they want clicks, not the truth
- Lobbying: they are everywhere
What about transliteracy, then?
Definition

“Transliteracy is the ability to read, write and interact across a range of platforms, tools and media from signing and orality through handwriting, print, TV, radio and film, to digital social networks.” – www.transliteracy.com
Sorbonne study: 50% of Europeans are transliterate
100% of Europeans have right to vote

-> we need to act
What can libraries do?

- Transforming libraries: from book storages to media labs
- Libraries can help in keeping up all forms of literacy
- Libraries are the only existing world wide network supporting literacy
Modernizing libraries support modernizing society
Thank you!