



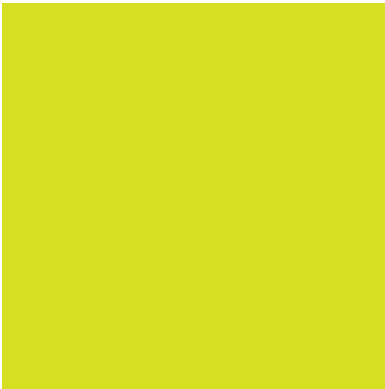
United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



IFAP

Information for All
Programme

INFORMATION FOR ALL PROGRAMME



**Consolidating Information
and Knowledge Societies –**
Empowering Peoples and Nations



The Information for All Programme is an intergovernmental programme created by UNESCO to provide a platform for policy discussion by helping to formulate guidelines for action in the area of access to information and knowledge, in order to ensure equitable participation in Knowledge Societies. The Programme promotes international reflection and debate on the ethical, legal and societal challenges of the information society. IFAP effectively sets out a framework of political standards, international strategies and best practices in its six priority areas.

Chafica Haddad

Chair of IFAP

What is IFAP?

The Information for All Programme (IFAP) is a unique UNESCO intergovernmental programme established in 2001. Through IFAP, member and partner governments pledge to harness the new opportunities of the information age to create equitable societies through better access to information. The last decade has witnessed technological development at a scale and speed unprecedented in the history of humankind. One of the major challenges the world faces today is to ensure equitable access for all people, and to seize and benefit fully from these new opportunities. IFAP is UNESCO's response to the expectations of its Member States to build inclusive and sustainable Knowledge Societies.

How does IFAP operate?

The Programme is guided in its planning and implementation by an Intergovernmental Council, comprising 26 UNESCO Member States that are elected by UNESCO's General Conference. The functioning of the Council is financed by UNESCO's regular budget. The Council guides the planning and implementation of the programme by considering relevant proposals, recommending broad lines of action, assessing achievements, encouraging the participation of Member States, and supporting fundraising efforts. The Intergovernmental Council elects a Bureau composed of eight members: a Chair, three Vice-Chairs, three members and a Rapporteur.

IFAP objectives

- Promoting international reflection on the ethical, legal and societal challenges of Knowledge Societies
- Promoting and widening access to information through digitization and preservation
- Supporting training and lifelong learning in the fields of communication and information
- Supporting the production of local content and indigenous knowledge through information literacy
- Promoting the use of international standards and best practices in communication and information
- Promoting information and knowledge networking at local, national, regional and international levels

IFAP priorities

- Information for Development
- Information Literacy
- Information Preservation
- Information Ethics
- Information Accessibility
- Multilingualism in Cyberspace



Supporting Member States in formulating information policies

The Programme supports capacity-building in policy-making at the international, regional and national level to help Member States to integrate quality policy development resources/activities developed by IFAP (e.g. declarations, guidelines, studies and capacity-building initiatives) into their national information policies, through the inclusion of knowledge society policies in their national information strategies.

Knowledge society policy resources

IFAP, in collaboration with the United Nations University, developed two policy resources: the 'Knowledge Societies Policy Handbook' and the 'Knowledge Societies Policy Library', a compendium comprising numerous case studies. The handbooks provide general information and detailed guidance on the formulation of knowledge society policies, supported by examples of implemented public policies, processes, mechanisms and information sources at different levels. The handbooks can be adapted to countries in different contexts and at different development levels, and provide a 'how-to' guide for the preparing and updating of knowledge society policy proposals.

Regional Conference for Francophone Africa on Gender Mainstreaming in ICT Policies and Programmes

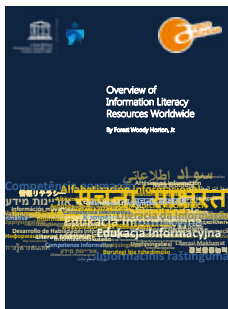
From 25 to 27 September 2017 in Dakar, Senegal, UNESCO organized a regional conference for Francophone Africa on gender mainstreaming in ICT policies and programmes. The conference was undertaken in partnership with the Ministry of Communication, Telecommunications, Post and Digital Economy of Senegal; UN Women; the ECOWAS Gender Development Centre; the World Wide Web Foundation; the Alliance for Affordable Internet; the African Development Bank; and Facebook. The event was organized with substantial support from the Information for All Programme. It brought together decision-makers from relevant ministries in 20 Francophone African countries, in connection with ICTs, telecoms, women, science and technology and the private sector, as well as ICT industry regulatory agencies and civil society actors promoting innovation and digital entrepreneurship.

IFAP supported the formulation and implementation of evidence-based ICT in education policies through the initiative 'ICT Transforming Education in Africa', developed as part of a cooperation framework between UNESCO and the Republic of Korea, to contribute to the national efforts of Rwanda, Mozambique and Zimbabwe in meeting their national economic and social development goals.

Information Literacy

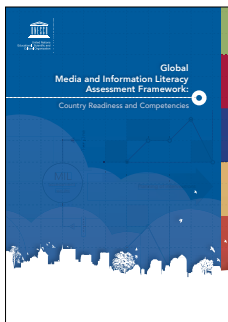
Information Literacy empowers people in all walks of life to seek, evaluate, use and create information effectively to achieve their personal, social, occupational and educational goals. It is a basic human right in a digital world that promotes social inclusion. Information Literacy enables people to interpret and make informed judgments as users of information sources, as well as to become producers of information in their own right. Information-literate people are able to access information about their health, their environment, their education and work, empowering them to make critical decisions about their lives.

Overview of Information Literacy Resources Worldwide



This collection of Information Literacy (IL) resources from around the world is divided into 42 language lists and includes selected resources – from websites, books, journals and other publications – that were provided by contributors from different countries and institutions. Compiled by Dr Forest Woody Horton Jr., the overview aims to encourage school teachers and librarians to work together within their primary and secondary grade levels, by using the extensive native language resources to prepare lesson plans and tutorials to introduce IL training into the classroom.

Fostering open government through media and information literacy



More than 100 experts from 45 countries gathered in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russian Federation, from 6 to 10 June 2016 for the first IFAP international conference on 'Media and Information Literacy for Building a Culture of Open Government'. The conference facilitated rich, global exchanges on such aspects as the conceptualization of open government, strategies for developing media and information competencies among civil servants and citizens, as well as the development and introduction of media and information literacy curricula in national educational programmes.

The conference marked another important stage in IFAP's journey to ensure that every person is able to access and utilize information and knowledge to reach their full potential and contribute to human development and peace.

Global Media and Information Literacy Assessment Framework

The UNESCO Global Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Assessment Framework offers methodological guidance and practical tools for the assessment of country readiness and competencies regarding MIL at the national level, particularly in relation to teachers in service and in training. The MIL Assessment Framework provides methodological guidance for the national adaptation process, with six phases and various practical tools. On the basis of the assessment results, countries will be enabled to make informed decisions regarding interventions aimed at the further development of MIL, by fostering an enabling environment and enhancing the competencies of their citizens.





Information Preservation

Universal access to information is a prerequisite for building knowledge societies. Throughout history, libraries and archives have been the guardians of the documentary heritage of humankind. But in a world increasingly being shaped by digital technologies, the traditional guardian institutions (libraries, archives and museums) are challenged to keep pace with the rapid growth in information. Information preservation is being predominantly executed by strengthening and extending the underlying principles of the Memory of the World Programme, beyond its registers, which serve as catalysts to alert decision-makers and the public at large.

ICA International Congress 2016

IFAP participated in the International Council on Archives (ICA) International Congress 2016 from 5 to 10 September 2016 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The 2016 conference considered the theme of 'Archives, Harmony and Friendship' and discussed the following topics: the changing nature of record-keeping in the digital age; opportunities for cooperation within and outside the archival milieu; the uses and role of archives in the support of truth, justice and reconciliation; and opportunities for harmony and friendship in archival endeavours.

Electronic Village Project

IFAP established a partnership agreement with the NGO Electronic Village during the 27th IFAP Bureau Meeting in February 2017. The Electronic Village Project is dedicated to the preservation of important historical documentary heritage in the Arabic language. It focuses on electronic publications and the development of multimedia content related to cultural projects on Arabic scientific heritage, humanities, language and literature. This cooperation with UNESCO aims to provide a high synergy that will be beneficial to a wider network, which will foster the dissemination of information and knowledge at local, national, regional and international levels.

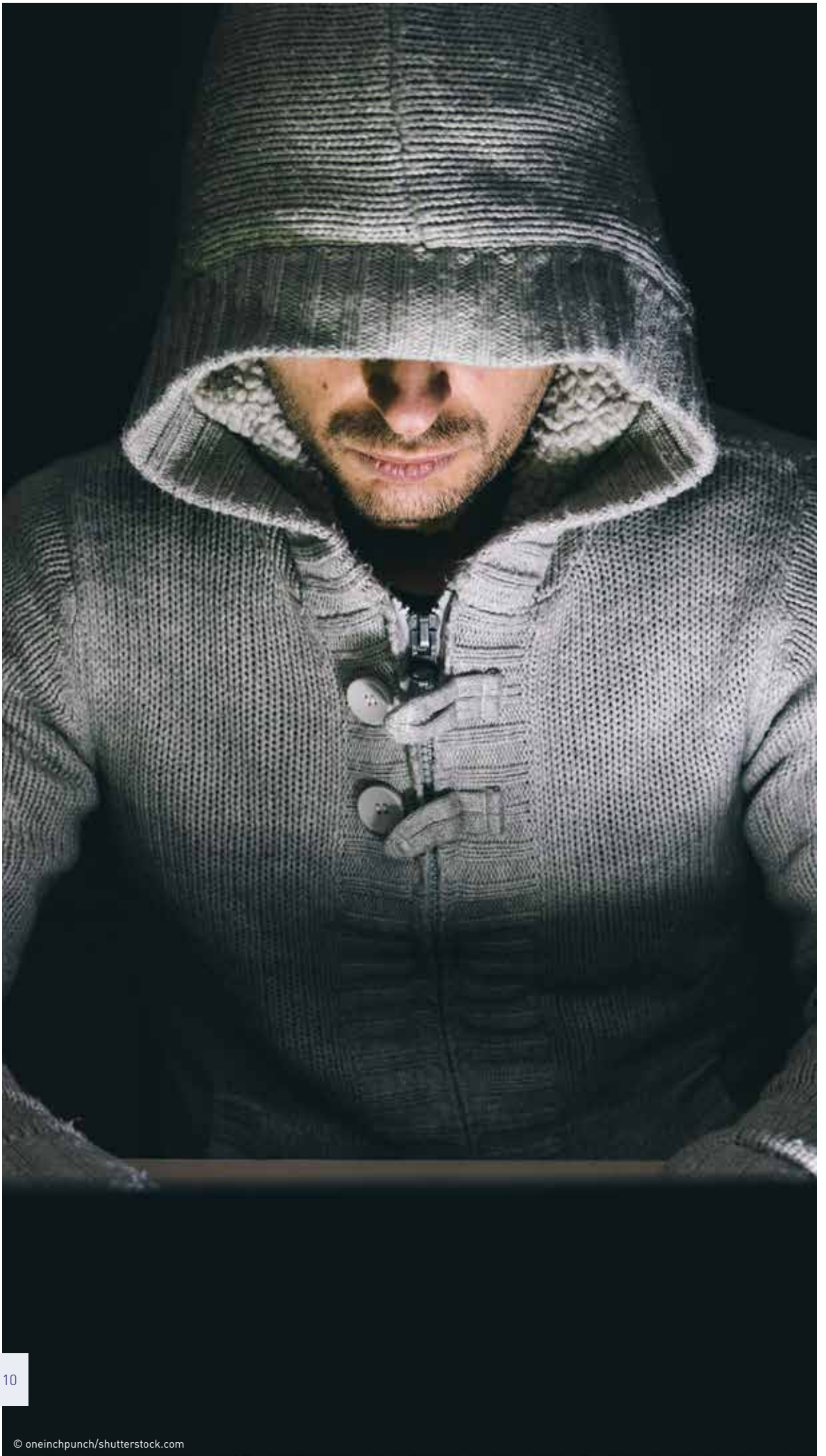


Information for Development

Information for Development focuses on the value of information for addressing development issues. It is a tool for empowerment, e.g. through making the planning figures of government budgets available to all, through transparent and competitive bidding processes, through increased accountability of government offices, etc. It is also a tool for increasing opportunities and livelihood security. The central underlying issue is the need to stress not only the importance of access to information, but also the relevance and usefulness of information.

World Intellectual Capital Conference

In July 2016, UNESCO hosted the 12th edition of the World Conference on Intellectual Capital (IC), which was organized by IFAP, the European Chair on Intellectual Capital and the University of Paris-Sud. The conference focused on 'Data, Digital Assets and Platforms' and explored the challenges and opportunities stemming from today's increasingly knowledge-based economy, with a regional focus on Africa. The 13th edition of the World Conference on Intellectual Capital for Communities was organized on 3 and 4 July 2017 in Paris, France. The topic of the 2017 conference was 'Information and Knowledge for All: Towards an Inclusive Innovation', with a regional focus on Japan.



Information Ethics

Information ethics cover the ethical, legal and societal aspects of the applications of ICT and are derived from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. One of the most challenging ethical issues is the inequity of access to ICT between countries, and between urban and rural communities within countries. Along with the benefits of a digitally connected world come the threats of misuse and abuse. Countries are already building mechanisms to protect their people against these risks, for example to ensure the safety of children on the internet, but clearly a lot more needs to be done to address the ethical implications of the information society. In collaboration with its partner institutions, IFAP seeks to do so.

Preventing youth radicalization and violent extremism in cyberspace

In 2015, within the framework of IFAP, UNESCO led the first-ever international conference on 'Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism', which brought together experts and decision-makers to share policy intervention experiences, projects and processes for reducing the use of the internet as a tool for attracting young people to extremist ideologies and radicalism. The conference sensitized Member States and partners about the risks of this threat, and indicated the urgent need for sustained international attention and global action in support of Member States. At this conference, UNESCO also launched its cross-sectoral initiative 'A New Integrated Framework of Action - Empowering Youth to Build Peace: Youth 2.0 – Building Skills, Bolstering Peace'.

This was followed in 2016 by the international conference 'Internet and the Radicalization of Youth: Preventing, Acting and Living Together', co-organized by UNESCO, IFAP and the Government of Quebec, with the support of the Canadian Government. The resulting 'Quebec's Call for Action' (*Appel de Québec*) called upon the international community to take multidimensional action to combat violent extremism. In this respect, Canada has provided support for the UNESCO intersectoral project 'Preventing Violent Extremism through Youth Empowerment in Jordan, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia'.

As a part of continuous efforts to confront this problem, the international conference on 'Youth and Information and Communication Technologies: Preventing Violent Extremism in Cyberspace', was organized by UNESCO, IFAP and the authorities of Lebanon in May 2017 in Beirut. The Final Statement of the Conference calls for effective measures to prevent and combat the online propagation of violence, as well as for using the internet to promote a culture of peace.

New societal, technological and ethical challenges of the DarkNet were discussed at an expert meeting in Paris on 14 September 2017. Organized by IFAP, the meeting provided an opportunity for representatives of Permanent Delegations to UNESCO, as well as external participants, to discuss the challenges of cyber threats and ways to improve national strategies through innovative and global solutions.



Information Accessibility

Globalization, while shaping a new era of interaction between nations, economies and people, can also be disruptive and engender side effects, such as marginalization. At the same time, developments such as the internet create an unprecedented opportunity for sharing information. Information accessibility encompasses many issues surrounding availability, accessibility and affordability of information, such as metadata, interoperability, open source software, open content and Creative Commons licences, as well as addressing the special needs of people with disabilities.

Access for people with disabilities

The World Health Organization (WHO) states that 15% of the world's population are living with disabilities. However, information and communication technologies (ICT) have the potential to make significant improvements in the lives of these persons, allowing them to enhance their social and economic integration in communities by enlarging the scope of activities available to them. UNESCO is one of the UN agencies that promotes and supports the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted in 2006. UNESCO's vision is to create knowledge societies that are inclusive, pluralistic, equitable, open and participatory for all its citizens.

International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI)

IFAP celebrated the first-ever International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI) on 28 September 2016. This day calls for the ensuring of universal access to



information and protection of fundamental freedoms. IFAP, in collaboration with the UNESCO New Delhi Office, organized a South Asian celebration of the day in New Delhi, India. IFAP, in collaboration with the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), co-organized IPDC talks at UNESCO's headquarters in Paris in 2016 and 2017. The IPDC talks aimed to highlight the importance of access to information for all, and consisted of a series of dynamic and informative talks by global public leaders, top journalists, leading entrepreneurs, young intellectuals and community leaders. The second edition of the day was celebrated in Port Louis, Mauritius on 28 September 2017 with the theme 'Overcoming Divides and Achieving the SDGs'.

Gender empowerment of young girls and women through ICT

IFAP supports the empowerment of girls and women in Ghana through information and communication technology (ICT). There is an extreme disparity between the number of women and men who are entering the workforce, especially in the ICT sector, as women are frequently steered away from careers in science and technology. In light of the high labour market demand for ICT skills, it is essential to encourage girls to pioneer studies, jobs and careers in these sectors and effectuate changes in society. The project is developed in cooperation with the Permanent Delegation of Ghana to UNESCO, with the collaboration of the Government of Ghana, the Ghana-India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT, the UNESCO Office in Accra, the International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA) and the UNESCO YouthMobile Initiative, with the support of several contributions from the private sector.



Multilingualism in Cyberspace

IFAP believes that language is a primary means for communicating information and knowledge, thus the ability to access content on the internet in a language that one can use is a key determinant in the extent to which one can participate in knowledge societies. In 2003, UNESCO adopted the Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace, promoting multilingualism and an equal balance between the interests of information rights holders and those of the public.

Multilingualism in cyberspace for inclusive sustainable development

The Global Expert Meeting 'Multilingualism in Cyberspace for Inclusive Sustainable Development' was successfully hosted in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russian Federation, from 5 to 9 June 2017, within the framework of the IX annual International IT Forum. Organized with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and BRICS participation, the meeting's goal was to strengthen international cooperation in the digital era and



promote innovative technologies. Around 100 participants from some 46 countries were in attendance, including government representatives, private companies and IT specialists. This major event gathered representatives of intergovernmental, regional and national organizations, universities and research centres, and successfully addressed the importance of multilingualism and linguistic diversity in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Addressing the challenges of a multilingual cyberspace

A round table and a high-level meeting on Russia's language policy and the situation of multilingualism in the world was held in Moscow on 17 and 18 November 2016 at the ITAR-TASS News Agency, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation, the Russian Committee of the UNESCO Information for All Programme, and the Interregional Library Cooperation Centre. High on the agenda were the following topics: access to information in a truly multilingual cyberspace; the promotion of formal and informal open online education in all languages; and the development of the Russian language and the languages of some 100 indigenous peoples of the Russian Federation.



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