

**TITLE:**

An Information Literacy Strategic Project implementation at Universidade Nova de Lisboa: case presentation

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**ABSTRACT**

**Context:** Presentation of a specific Information Literacy (IL) Project started at Universidade Nova de Lisboa (Nova) in 2008 and still in progress.

**Background:** The need to evolve from the many diverse educational practices existing among Nova's libraries and to undertake a systematic curriculum integrated approach was brought to the Rector by the Heads of Libraries of all 9 Units (Faculties and Research Institutes) organized as Nova librarians' working group (LWG). The Rector decided that the proposal should take the form of an initial formalized presentation to the College of Deans. From this introduction and the acknowledgment that IL could be an important horizontal and integrating project to Nova (so far with a tradition of quite "independent" Units) the Rector's assumed the starting of a formal project on IL with the support of an external foreign expert. Therefore Professor Sheila Corral from the University of Sheffield was appointed by the LWG and later invited.

**Aim:** The aim of this communication is to present the Nova Information Literacy Project - as it developed by the time of EAHIL Conference - to illustrate a case of strategic approach throughout an entire university.

**Participants:** The project developed from an initial head librarians' group (LWG) that received the University Rector sponsorship, to a gradually spread initiative involving all Nova's librarians, teachers appointed by each university's Units (UO), the university pedagogical expert and the coordinator of Nova's Master Course in Information and Documentation, besides the Project's external expert.

**Intervention:** The IL strategic project at Nova is using different means for its aim. Although strategically planned, the Authors intend to highlight the flexibility it took while developing, namely responding to unpredicted delays (such as those arising from external university changes) with new initiatives mostly in the sense of raising a full understanding of the project among the librarians as well as developing skills and competencies to maximize their full participation. Besides flexible adaptation to specific factors, many planned strategic steps were followed, such as the 3 Pilot Projects with teachers' librarians' partnership and providing a uncommon work practice among different UOs. The fact that the Project builds upon very diverse realities within Nova and aims to develop taking the

most out of cultural scientific diversities by “harmonizing” good practices and not by “standardization” will also be stressed.

**Outcomes:** The Project is currently in progress but the Authors can already mention some initial outcomes, such as: the emergence of new knowledge as well as new practices among librarians, including previously inexistent sharing practices; a first approach of different (and still traditionally apart) bodies of the university, such as teachers and librarians; and last but not least, an opportunity to jointly raise some of the pedagogical requirements for teaching. Many others are still to come.

**Conclusion:** The project is expected to have its Pilot Projects phase completed and evaluated by the time of the presentation at EAHIL Conference, thus enabling the communication of further data to be shared.