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# Final report on the National Forum on Information Literacy (NFIL)

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The National Forum on Information Literacy (NFIL) formed as a result of one of the recommendations from the seminal 1989 American Library Association (ALA) Presidential Committee on Information Literacy (ALA 1989). A progress report and three published articles provide a detailed history of the accomplishments of the NFIL (Weiner et al. 2013; Weiner and Jackman 2010; Gibson 2004; Breivik et al. 1998).



Sharon A. Weiner

The NFIL existed as a national and international information clearinghouse and support network “to address all major educational and societal issues connected to information literacy, including the allied concepts of lifelong and resource-based learning” (Gibson 2004). It made impressive progress in achieving the goals that were outlined in the 1989 ALA presidential report (Breivik et al. 1998).

The strength and unique focus of NFIL has been to bring together diverse perspectives from multiple sectors to accomplish its mission. Before the 2008 recession, member organisations met several times a year in Washington, DC. Participants worked to “advance the most expansive and compelling sense of information literacy...forging a common purpose among a large sector of educational, business, nonprofit, and governmental communities to improve the lives of all citizens” (Gibson 2004).

In 2009, the NFIL changed its status from a loose coalition of volunteer organisations to a legal non-profit organisation. The aftermath of the 2008 recession, in conjunction with managing this challenging transformation, required a continued reliance on partnerships and collaborations, in addition to in-kind support donations in order to effectively move its agenda forward.

The mission of the newly established non-profit was to mainstream information literacy (IL) practice across all educational and workplace sectors. Under this organisational structure, NFIL received the first federal recognition of the importance of IL via a presidential proclamation issued by President Obama (Obama 2009).

Given the rapid growth of the digital universe, the non-profit founders optimistically anticipated that the NFIL would accomplish its mission of making IL practice ubiquitous within a short timeframe. Although NFIL has made tremendous strides since its establishment in 1989, it has become quite clear that the widespread societal integration of IL will continue to be an ongoing challenge in efforts to level the playing field for the development of the responsible digital citizen.



Lana W. Jackman

The NFIL ceased to exist as a non-profit organisation in October 2015. The website will remain accessible until 25 May 2016. Purdue University's Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center will archive the NFIL website, digital records, and print documents. We thank everyone who supported and worked with NFIL through the years.

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