

## Alison J. Head

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### **Project Information Literacy (<http://projectinfolit.org>)**

Executive Director

Project Information Literacy is an ongoing, not-for-profit research study in the US, Project Information Literacy (PIL), on how today's college students find and use information for conducting course-related and everyday life research in the digital age. Nine major research reports published on PIL site.

Leadership activities include the following:

- Developing a volunteer sample of over 250 participating US college campuses with access to 2.5 million undergraduate college students for participation in current and future PIL studies (map at <http://tinyurl.com/qaudooz>)
- Designing protocols for focus groups, interviews, and online survey instruments for collecting data about information-seeking behavior from a population of college and university students, college and university faculty, adults, and national employers in the US.
- Collaborating with Internal Review Boards (IRB) and Human Subjects Division staff and librarians, faculty, alumni association staff on individual campuses across the US to meet research project goals and submit protocols for conducting PIL studies.
- Writing and producing nine open-access, quantitative and qualitative PIL research reports, including recommendations for improving current and future resources and services available to students, faculty, and employers (publications at <http://projectinfolit.org/publications>)
- Writing and publishing quantitative and qualitative research articles for scholarly publications, including four peer-reviewed articles published in *First Monday*, *Library and Information Research*, and *College and Research Libraries*.
- Writing and publishing commentary and opinion pieces on students' research habits for a generalists audiences in national newspaper publications, such as *The Seattle Times* and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.
- Public speaking at national and international conferences and experience with presenting research findings and discussing their implications.
- Managing, budgeting, and administering over \$1 million in federal grant and foundation support for PIL research projects. Recruiting, hiring, and training research analysts.
- Communicating and updating stakeholders, board members, funders, and librarians on the research progress, outcomes, and future directions.

#### **The Information School, University of Washington**

Principal Research Scientist, Information School, University of Washington, 2008 – July 2016.

Conducted PIL research study in partnership with the iSchool. PIL was co-directed by Alison Head and Michael Eisenberg, the Founding Dean of the iSchool from 2008 – 2012.

#### **St. Mary's College of California, Communication Department**

Roy Disney Visiting Professor of New Media, 1998-2008

Courses: Web Origins, Adoption, and Development; Interface Design Language; Communication in the Wired Workplace; Communication Theory; Organizational Communication; and Mass Media History.

### **Alison J. Head & Associates, Sonoma, CA**

Principal and founder of a user-experience research firm, 1998-2008.

Consulted with project teams, designers, and managers to improve the design, usability of new and existing information resources. Clients included Hewlett-Packard, Sun Microsystems, San Francisco Public Library.

### **U.C. Berkeley's Center for Studies in Higher Education**

Research Analyst, 2003-2004.

Participated as team member on two-year research study on instructors' use of digital collections in pedagogy, funded by the Mellon and Hewlett Foundations.

### **The Press Democrat Newspaper Library, a New York Times Regional Newspaper**

Director of Information Management, 1991- 1998.

Managed and re-organized the newspaper's News Research Center. Directed and supervised a staff of five employees. Automated newspaper clip collection to an online vendor system, chaired newspaper-wide task force on new media development and strategic planning, and developed a community news site in 1994, the New York Times Company's first website.

### **San Jose State University**

Lecturer, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, 1989-1998.

Courses developed and taught: Information Organizations and Management; Organizational Communication, Information and Society, and Human-Computer Interaction.

## **GRANTS AWARDED FOR FUNDING RESEARCH STUDIES**

Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), National Leadership Grant (2013-2015), \$471,000

Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), Planning Grant (2011), \$50,000

Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard (2011-12), Fellowship Grant, \$7,000

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation (General Division) (2010), Grant, \$100,000

Cengage Learning, Gift for Research Support (2009; 2012), \$75,000

ProQuest, Gift for Research Support, (2008), \$50,000

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Project Information Literacy Research Reports**

Head, A. J. (2016 December). Planning and designing academic library learning spaces: Expert perspectives of architects, librarians, and library consultants.

[http://www.projectinfolit.org/uploads/2/7/5/4/27541717/pil\\_libspace\\_report\\_12\\_6\\_16.pdf](http://www.projectinfolit.org/uploads/2/7/5/4/27541717/pil_libspace_report_12_6_16.pdf)

Head, A. J. (2016 January). Staying smart: How today's graduates continue to learn once they complete college.

[http://projectinfolit.org/images/pdfs/2016\\_lifelonglearning\\_fullreport.pdf](http://projectinfolit.org/images/pdfs/2016_lifelonglearning_fullreport.pdf)

Head, A. J. (2013 December). Learning the ropes: How freshmen conduct course research once they enter college.

[http://projectinfolit.org/images/pdfs/pil\\_2013\\_freshmenstudy\\_fullreport.pdf](http://projectinfolit.org/images/pdfs/pil_2013_freshmenstudy_fullreport.pdf)

Head, A. J. (2012 October). Learning curve: How college graduates solve information once they join the workplace.

[http://projectinfolit.org/images/pdfs/pil\\_fall2012\\_workplacestudy\\_fullreport\\_revised.pdf](http://projectinfolit.org/images/pdfs/pil_fall2012_workplacestudy_fullreport_revised.pdf)

Head, A. J. & Eisenberg, M. B. (2011 October). Balancing act: How college students manage while in the library during crunch time.

[http://projectinfolit.org/images/pdfs/pil\\_fall2011\\_techstudy\\_fullreport1.2.pdf](http://projectinfolit.org/images/pdfs/pil_fall2011_techstudy_fullreport1.2.pdf)

Head, A. J. & Eisenberg, M. B. (2010 November). Truth be told: How college students evaluate and information in the digital age.

[http://projectinfolit.org/images/pdfs/pil\\_fall2010\\_survey\\_fullreport1.pdf](http://projectinfolit.org/images/pdfs/pil_fall2010_survey_fullreport1.pdf)

Head, A. J. & Eisenberg, M. B. (2010 July). Assigning inquiry: How handouts for research assignments guide today's college students.

[http://projectinfolit.org/images/pdfs/pil\\_handout\\_study\\_finalvJuly\\_2010.pdf](http://projectinfolit.org/images/pdfs/pil_handout_study_finalvJuly_2010.pdf)

Head, A. J. & Eisenberg, M. B. (2009 December). Lessons learned: How college students seek information in the digital age.

[http://projectinfolit.org/images/pdfs/pil\\_fall2009\\_finalv\\_yr1\\_12\\_2009v2.pdf](http://projectinfolit.org/images/pdfs/pil_fall2009_finalv_yr1_12_2009v2.pdf)

Head, A. J. & Eisenberg, M. B. (2009 February). Finding context: What today's college students say about conducting research in the digital age.

[http://projectinfolit.org/images/pdfs/pil\\_progressreport\\_2\\_2009.pdf](http://projectinfolit.org/images/pdfs/pil_progressreport_2_2009.pdf)

### Peer-Reviewed Research Articles

Head, A. J., Garson, D. S., and Van Hoeck, M. (2015 February 2). Lifelong learning and participation in the digital age: A literature review. *First Monday*, 20(2),

<http://firstmonday.org/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/5857>

Head, A. J. (2014 December 1). Why blogs still matter to the young. *Internet Monitor 2014: Reflections on the Digital World*, Berkman Center for Internet and Society, Harvard University,

[https://cyber.law.harvard.edu/publications/2014/reflections\\_on\\_the\\_digital\\_world](https://cyber.law.harvard.edu/publications/2014/reflections_on_the_digital_world)

Head, A. J., Van Hoeck, M., Eschler, J., and Fullerton, S. (2013 May 1). What information competencies matter in the workplace? *Library and Information Research*, 37(114).

<http://www.lirjournal.org.uk/lir/ojs/index.php/lir/article/view/557/593>

Head, A. J. & Eisenberg, M. B. (2011 April 4). How college students use the Web to conduct everyday life research. *First Monday*, 16,(4).

<http://www.uic.edu/htbin/cgiwrap/bin/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/3484/2857>

Head, A. J. & Eisenberg, M. B. (2010 March 1). How today's college students use Wikipedia for course-related research? *First Monday*, 15(3).

<http://www.uic.edu/htbin/cgiwrap/bin/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/2830/2476>

Head, A. J. (2008 September) Information literacy from the trenches: *College and Research Libraries*, 69(4). <http://crl.acrl.org/content/69/5/427.full.pdf+html>

Head, A. J. (2007 August 6). Beyond Google: How do students conduct academic research? *First Monday*, 12(8).

<http://firstmonday.org/htbin/cgiwrap/bin/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/1998/1873>

## Op-Eds and Commentary

Head, A. J. and Wihbey, J. At Sea in a Deluge of Data. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 2014 July 10. <http://chronicle.com/article/At-Sea-in-a-Deluge-of-Data/147477/>

Head, A. J. Old school job skills you won't find on Google. *The Seattle Times*, 2012 December 8. [http://seattletimes.com/html/opinion/2019857185\\_alisonheadopedxml.html](http://seattletimes.com/html/opinion/2019857185_alisonheadopedxml.html)

Head, A. J. and Eisenberg, M. B. College students eager to learn but need help negotiating information overload. *The Seattle Times*, 2011 June 3. [http://seattletimes.com/html/opinion/2015227485\\_guest05head.html](http://seattletimes.com/html/opinion/2015227485_guest05head.html)

Head, A. J. and Eisenberg, M. B. Add 'research' to the education's traditional three Rs. *The Seattle Times*, 2009 May 2. [http://seattletimes.com/html/opinion/2009117882\\_opinb25eisenberg.html](http://seattletimes.com/html/opinion/2009117882_opinb25eisenberg.html)

## PRESENTATIONS

Head, A. J. (2017 January 26). What today's students have taught us. Keynote at Libraries in Post-Truth World Session, Phillips Academy, Andover, MA.

Head, A. J. (2017 January 26). Libraries in a post-truth world (Panelist). Phillips Academy, Andover, MA.

Head, A. J. (2016 October 6). What happens to learning after college? Credo User Summit, Raleigh, NC.

Head, A. J. (2016 September 15). What every librarians should know about the undergraduate research process, Montana Academic Library Symposium, Helena, Montana.

Head, A. J. (2016 June 3). What college students have taught us. Keynote at Creating Knowledge VIII Conference, Reykjavik, Iceland.

Head, A. J. (2016 March 21). What happens after graduating from university? Invited paper at LILAC, Dublin, Ireland.

Head, A. J. (2016 February 25). Staying smart: Lifelong learning after college. Invited guest speaker, UNLV Libraries, Las Vegas, NV.

Head, A. J. (2016 January 27). When searching is social: A discussion. Panelist at Harvard Libraries, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

Head, A. J. (2016 January 26). Why are grads challenged by all they need to learn after college? Invited guest speaker at Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE), Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

Head, A. J. (2016 January 19). Lifelong learning after college. Half day San Francisco Bay Area librarians event with Alison Head at St. Mary's College of California, Moraga, CA.

Head, A. J. (2015 October 14). Lifelong learning after college. Half day New England librarians event with Alison Head at Simmons College, Boston, MA.

Head, A. J. (2015 February 24). Lifelong learning in the digital age: A study of recent college graduates. Technology, Society, and Knowledge International Conference, University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.

Head, A. J. (2015 May 4). What happens after college? Research Conversation, University of Washington iSchool, Seattle, WA.

Head, A. J. (2015 June 10). Staying smart: Information strategies that today's graduates employ as lifelong learners. Invited research conversation: Harvard University, Graduate School of Education, Research Teaching and Learning Committee, Cambridge, MA.

Head, A. J. (2015 June 10). What critical thinking competencies do undergraduates take from college? Invited research conversation: Harvard University, Graduate School of Education, Undergraduate Advising and Education Forum, Cambridge, MA.

Head, A. J. (2014 September 30). What librarians should know about today's students. Keynote at Pennsylvania Library Association Annual Conference, Lancaster, PA.

Head, A. J. (2014 July 24). What research skills are today's students learning and applying later in life? Keynote at Library Instruction West (LIW), Portland, OR.

Head, A. J. (2014 June 3). What can be learned from PIL's Passage Studies? Keynote at the Fenway Library Consortium, Boston, MA.

Head, A. J. (2014 April 24). Truth be told: How do today's students conduct research. Keynote at LILAC Conference, Sheffield, UK. <http://tinyurl.com/p8cusw3>

Head, A. J. (2014 January 27). Modeling students' information practices. Research Conversation Series, Information School, the University of Washington.

Head, A. J. (2013 September 20). What librarians and faculty should know about today's students and their research practices. Johannah Sherrer Memorial Lecture, Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR.

Head, A. J. (2013 April 11). What can be learned about the information-seeking behavior of college students? Invited paper at the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) National Conference, Indianapolis, IN. <http://tinyurl.com/lg7fryh>

Head, A. J. (2013 January 31). What is it like to be a college student in the digital age? Ontario Library Association, SuperConference, Toronto, Canada.

Head, A. J. (2012 October 18). A research conversation about workplace information literacy, lifelong learning, and PIL's latest study, San Francisco Bay Area Academic Librarians' Roundtable Session, California Maritime Academy (CSU), Vallejo, CA.

Head, A. J. (2012 April 11). Mining the gaps: A library conversation about research, teaching, learning and today's Harvard students, panelist at Harvard Libraries Strategic Conversation, Cambridge, MA.

Head, A. J. (2011 January). Searching for context: Modeling the information-seeking process of college students in the digital age, Berkman Center for Internet and Society Luncheon Series, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. <http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/events/luncheon/2012/01/head>

Head, A. J. (2011 October 10). How college students manage technology: PIL's latest research study, Lamont Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

Head, A. J. (2010 December 10). How today's college students evaluate and use information, keynote speech at In-Service Librarians Day, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH.

Head, A. J. (2010 October 27). Research symposium: What can we learn PIL's 2010 student survey, Purdue University Symposium, West Lafayette, IN.

Head, A. J. (2010 March). How today's college students find information, GKEN presentation at Harvard Business School (webinar), Cambridge, MA.

Head, A. J. (2010 January). Findings from project information literacy, Harvard Libraries, Cambridge, MA.

Head, A. J. (2009 November). What is it like to be a student in the digital age? University of Washington Library Research Seminar, Seattle, WA.

Head, A. J. (2009 June). Understanding the next-gen user, *Library Journal* webcast in four-part series, *Returning the user to the library* (webinar).

Head, A. J. (2009 March). Project information literacy: Through the lens of the student experience, Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Conference, Seattle, WA.

## EDUCATION

### University of California at Berkeley

Ph.D., Library and Information Science, 1990  
Masters, Library and Information Science, 1987  
Bachelor of Arts, Rhetoric, 1979

## FELLOWSHIPS & VISITING SCHOLARSHIPS

### University of Nebraska, Lincoln

Visiting Scholar, University Libraries, 2016 – present.

### Harvard University

Fellow, metaLAB (at) Harvard University, Fall 2015 - present  
Faculty Associate, Berkman Center for Internet & Society, Fall 2013 – Fall 2015  
Research Fellow, Berkman Center for Internet & Society, Fall 2011 – Spring 2013  
Research Fellow, Library Innovation Lab, Harvard Law School, Fall 2011- Spring 2013

### Stanford University

Visiting Scholar, Symbolic Systems with Human-Computer Interaction emphasis, 1996-1997

## ADVISORY BOARDS

Open Syllabus Project, Columbia University, New York.

WGBH "PBS Kids," Media Literacy Project, Boston, MA.