

## SARAWAK COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION LITERACY SKILLS (SCILS) : COLLABORATION TOWARDS A COMMON STANDARD OF INFORMATION LITERACY FOR SARAWAK

Siti Sumaizan Ramli<sup>1</sup>, Imilia Ibrahim<sup>2</sup> and Huzaimah Abd Rani<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Malaysia

<sup>2</sup>Universiti Teknologi MARA, Sarawak, Malaysia

e-mail: sumaizan@cais.unimas.my; imiliaibrahim@sarawak.uitm.edu.my;  
arhuzaimah@cais.unimas.my

### Abstract

*In order to provide a good information literacy guide and assistance towards their patrons, libraries and information centers produce their own rules and standards on how information literacy should be taught. The information literacy standard is a document to be benchmarked to make sure library users are information literate and capable to use information effectively. These standards will highlight what kind of practices and guides that libraries should provide to their users. Normally information literacy standards are prepared on library grounds and catered specifically to the needs of their organizations. SCILS on the other hand grouped libraries in Sarawak from different background to work together in creating a common information literacy standard for all libraries in the state. The project involves libraries and information centres from the academic, public and school background. In order to create and implement a common standard, there are some issues and factors that need to be tackled. With strong commitments and teamwork, this common standard is being developed to promote information literacy among all the communities in Sarawak.*

**Keywords:** Information literacy; Standard, Competencies; Sarawak libraries; Higher education

### INTRODUCTION

Information literacy skills are the most important skills for each and every one of us especially for library users. Unfortunately not many of library users really have these information literacy skills. Information literacy skills are basically having, the ability to recognize when information is needed, then to be able to locate and evaluate the appropriate information and use it effectively" (American Library Association 2000). Another way to look at information literacy is by defining it as the ability to know what there is in a landscape and to draw meaning from this through engagement and experience with information.