

# Forget IT

By Peter Gorm Larsen



# The outline for the presentation

- My points
- The case
- Theories
- Conclusions

# My points

- You can't teach people how to use the Internet because:
- The Internet is unpredictable as the ocean
- It's not possible to make a curriculum
- Specific skills in specific programmes get outdated very fast
- The teacher is often sitting on the backseat regarding computer skills and feeling bad
- Traditional "Keyboard courses" is ineffective and quite boring for the participants and the teacher

# The case

- A college of teacher education
- 20 students
- No IT courses
- All beginners
- Time was scarce
- The subject was the political system in Denmark



# The set-up

- A innovative class - breaking the rules
- Special attention from consultants
- Commitment - us against them
- A feeling of community
- A clear Project - transform a book
- A problem based approach
- Working in small task groups
- Accountability and deadlines
- Teachers with spirit and energy

# What did they learn?

- Something about the political system in Denmark
- Some very important concepts in political science
  - To organise, make a schedule, cope with time pressure and chaos
  - To be effective and work together
  - To be innovative and creative

# What did they learn about IT?

- Methods to approach an every changing field - e.g.. the Internet
- Navigate on the Internet, find and evaluate information
- Design and make homepages, upload files, make a cd-rom
- Use Information Technology in general

Et projekt i Det Innovative Seminarium. Politik og samfund i forandring, bind2, 1998.

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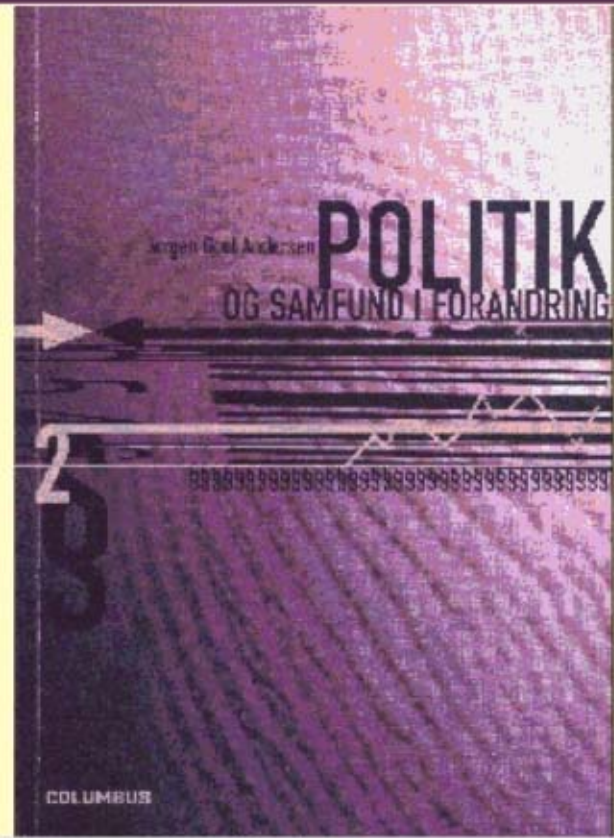
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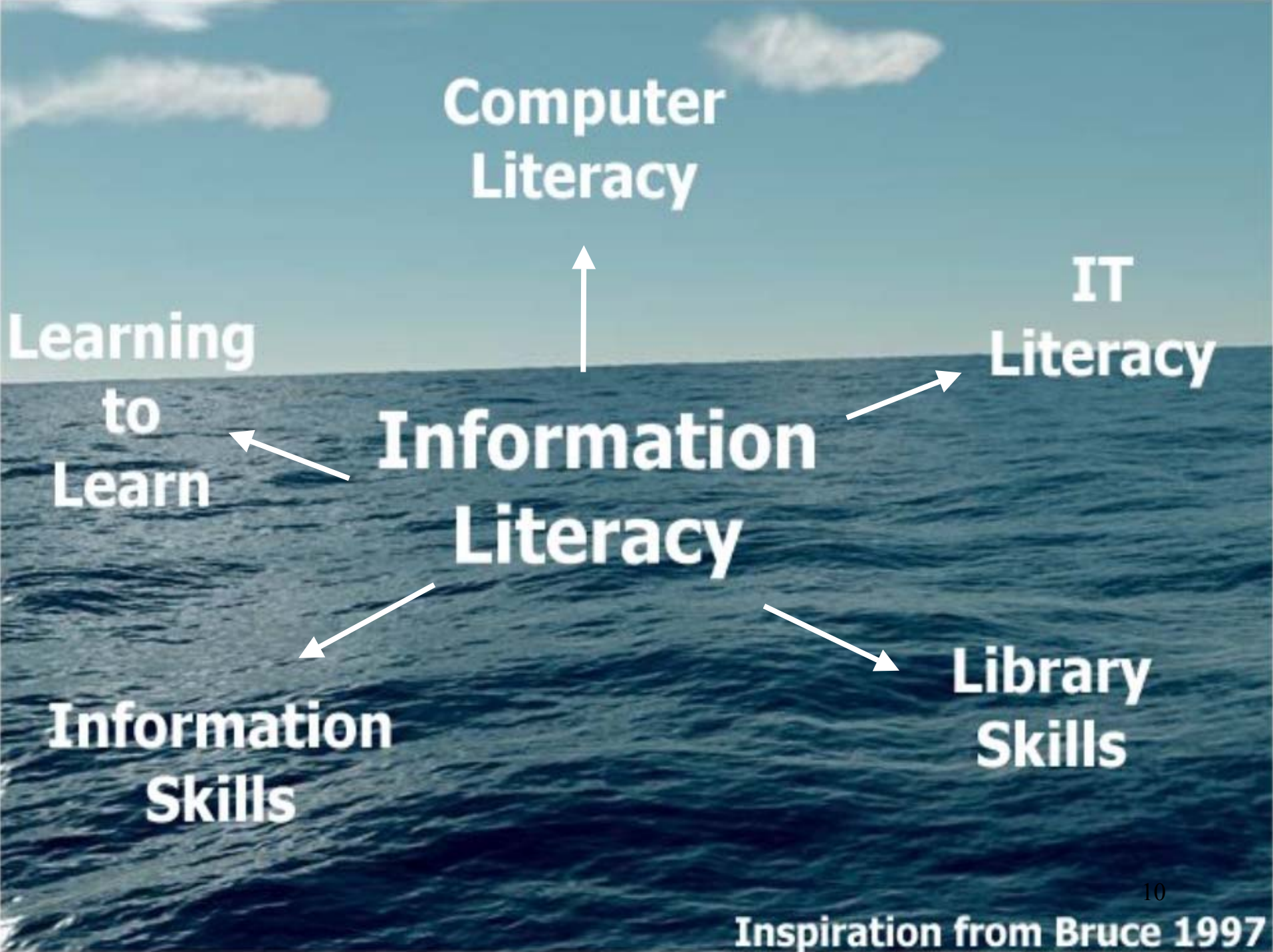
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# Theories

- Information Literacy
- Problem based learning
- Piaget and Constructivism
- Vigotsky
- Management by Objectives



**Computer  
Literacy**

**IT  
Literacy**

**Learning  
to  
Learn**

**Information  
Literacy**

**Information  
Skills**

**Library  
Skills**

# Problem based learning

- Find solutions to problems. Don't spend time on a static curriculum in a changing world
- Don't teach in a class. Students are too different. No teachers, only consultants
- More motivating to work with problems
- Learning by doing. Build on experience
- Don't spoil the memory with unnecessary facts, data and commands.

# Piaget, Papert and Constructivism

- Play with materials (computers)
- Hands on experience
- Teaching by telling is de-emphasised
- No smooth instructions and small steps
- Intellectual conflicts and challengers
- Active learner, feelings are important
- Non-linear thinking, many strategies
- Varied steps, roller coaster ride

# Vigotsky

- Learning is a social process
- Dialog and verbal communication more than instruction
- (Create IT environments for collaborative learning - forums, conferences and Intranets)
- Metacognition - Awareness of methods to "learn to learn"

# Management by Objective

- Mission statement with clear objectives
- Feelings are important, create values
- Awareness of the meaning of the activities, create projects
- No hierarchy, snobberies and myopic department thinking
- Innovative, creative and interdisciplinary task groups

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# Conclusions

- Forget IT - Please read the paper
- Integrate IT in projects where IT is a tool more than a goal
- Create positive feelings to IT more than teach in concrete IT skills
- Work interdisciplinary, Teachers and Liberians as consultants for project groups
- Enjoy the every changing IT ocean