Information Strategies for Myanmar: A Society in Transition
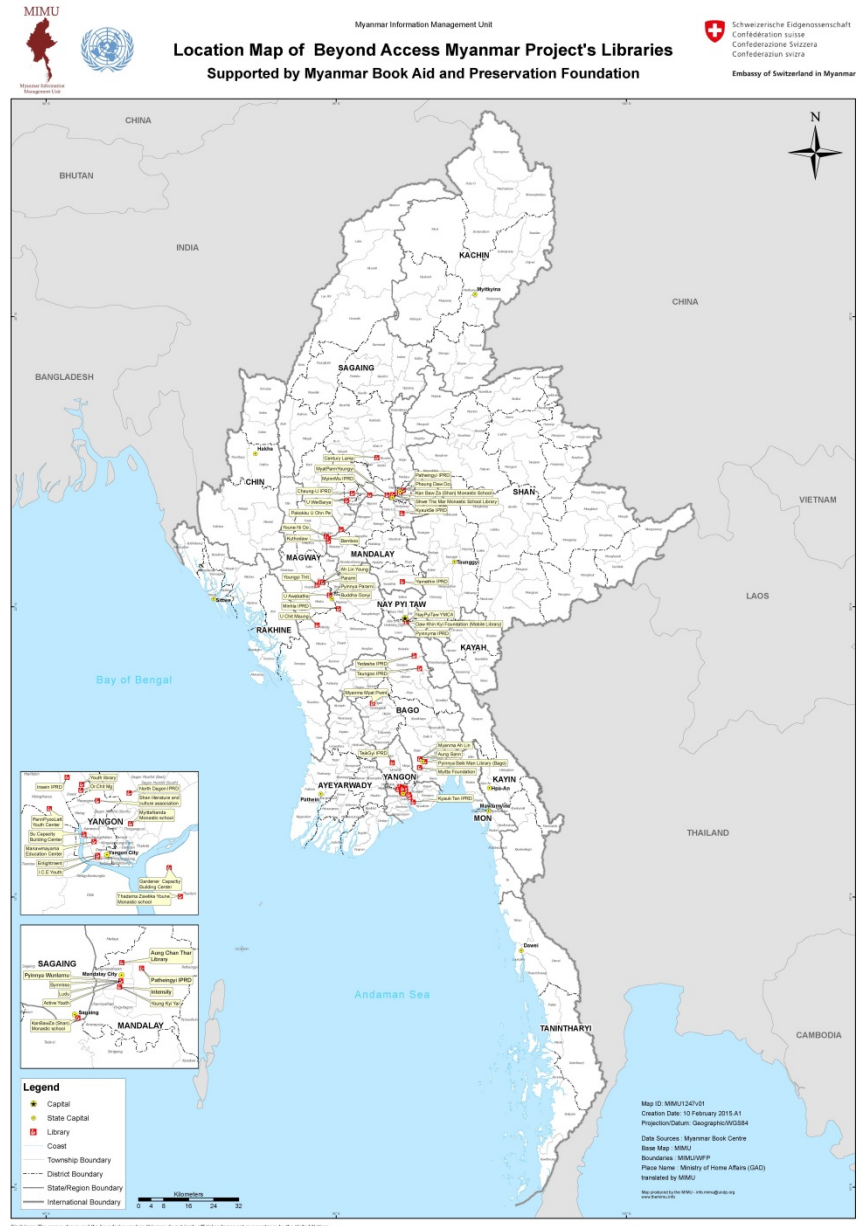
Project Overview: Goals

(1) building organizational capacity in civil society, political parties, the media, government ministries, and think tanks to design and implement effective and transparent information solutions;

(2) developing and implementing mobile information literacy curricula;

(3) growing the capacity of libraries to serve as trustworthy information hubs;

(4) piloting new platforms that tackle digital and information challenges in Myanmar.

Project Overview: Key Activities

- Trained 25 Fellows from all sectors of Myanmar society in IT project management and research (info strategies)
  - Trainings in both Yangon and Seattle
  - Including librarians, government, business, media, NGOs
- Trained partners Enlightened Myanmar Research and Myanmar Book Aid and Preservation Foundation
- Developed Mobile and Information Literacy Curriculum
- Working on developing Microsoft IT Academies in Yangon and Mandalay
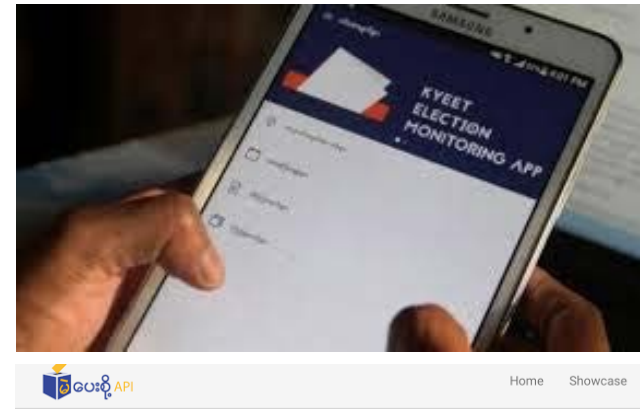- Donated over 150 Surface Tablets to Myanmar libraries and 1,000 are on the way

Background of MBAPF activities

- Partnering with Beyond Access group, Ooredoo and MoI to get internet access at (55) public libraries

Digital and Information Literacy Needs

- Looking to develop a curriculum applicable to local context

- Should work in a mobile, low broadband environment

- Covering all aspects of digital and information literacy

- Integrate work of partners on elections and peacebuilding education

Locally Developed Elections Apps, Dev Competition

Digital Literacy Frameworks Review

- SCONUL 7 Pillars

- UNESCO Empowering Eight

- Mozilla Web Literacy Map

- Australian Adult, Community and Further Education (Adult Migrant English)

- Microsoft Digital Literacy and IT Academy Programs

- **EC/JRC Digital Competency Framework**
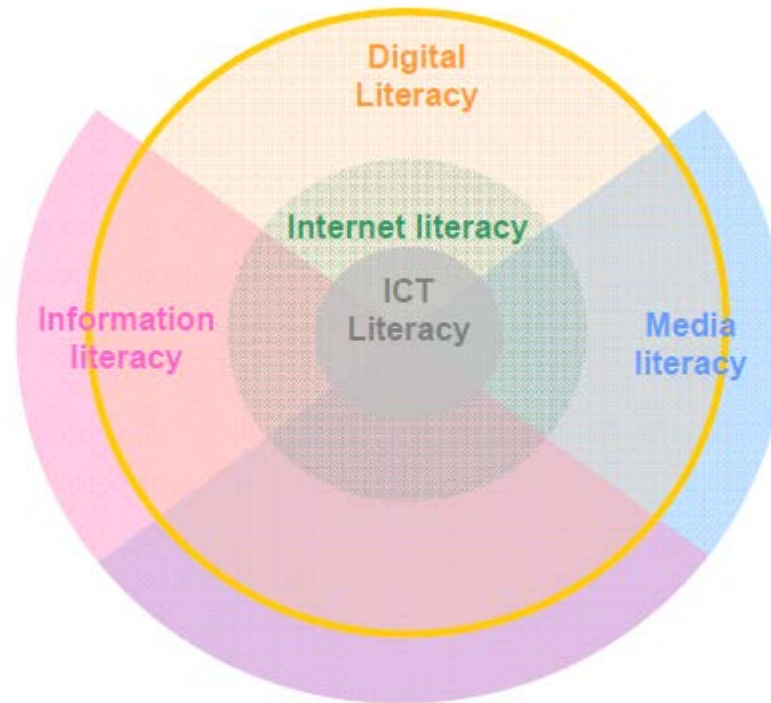
Overlapping Literacies

Figure 2: Digital literacy and other related literacies.
Source: IPTS (Ala-Mutka, 2011)

Mobile Information Literacy Curriculum Overview

- 6 Modules delivered in 3 day course

- Translated and taught in English and Burmese

- Trainers encouraged to survey participants for skills, backgrounds and needs

- Initial training targeted at librarians who will repeat in local contexts

- Targeted at all beginners

- Designed to be open to any hardware, could be taught in mobile or computer environment

Introduction to ICTs workshop in Mandalay

Methods
Lectures / Demonstrations
Group work / Exercises / Presentations

Modules

- Module 1: Introduction to Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)
- Module 2: Introduction to the Internet
- Module 3: Communication Tools
- Module 4: Basic Web Searching
- Module 5: Working Online and Using Information
- Module 6: Putting It All Together
- Module 7: Project Presentations

Example Activities

Section 1: Intro to ICTs
- Making a Wi-Fi Connection
- Securing Devices

Section 2: Intro to the Internet
- Features of a browser
- Creating tabs and bookmarks

Section 3: Communication Tools
- Skype, Google Drive and Dropbox

Section 4: Basic Web Searching
- Using search engine operators
- Facebook versus Google search
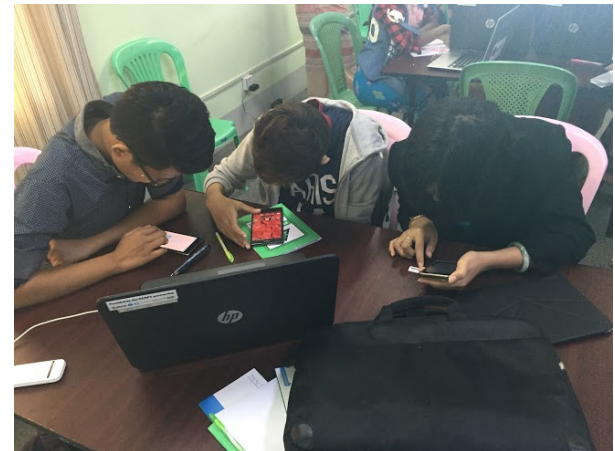
Example Activities

Section 5: Working Online and Using Info

- Basic Protection Measures
- Creating and Using Online Facebook Groups

Section 6: Putting It All Together

- Create a project such as a event flyer, comic or Wikipedia page
- Develop and practice a presentation for group

Section 7: Project Presentations

Information Strategies Curriculum

- More advanced curriculum piloted for 25 fellows
  - Trainings in Yangon and Seattle
  - Representatives from all sectors of Myanmar society
  - Developed 5 information projects related to democracy in Myanmar, from increasing civic participation to improving the election process.
  - Based on information management coursework at UW iSchool
  - Also taught to partners in Myanmar

Information Strategies Curriculum

Six step program to:

1) identify information problems,

2) develop problem statements,

3) propose real-world information projects relevant to a learner's organization,

4) create project charters detailing project scope, stakeholders, risk assessment, and success factors,

5) outline project plans,

6) create project schedules.

Information Strategies for Societies in Transition Future

- Plan to share MIL curriculum online in English and Burmese

- Will be expanding trainings to more libraries

- Working to teach information strategies curriculum to new partners and interested parties in Myanmar

- Will present results of project and discuss Myanmar's emerging info society in Yangon at our Information Symposium in January 2016

Information Symposium

- Multi-stakeholder event (from Librarians, ICT, Research, University, Media and Government)
- Challenges of information provision and access
- Challenges of access of information from governmt
- Challenges faced between citizens and international actors
- Opportunities from technology sector
- Recommendation for the new government

Panels

1. What Makes Information "Good Enough"
2. Information access, literacy and competency in a transitional landscape
3. How Historical Scarcity Still Matters?
4. Citizen Information Challenges
5. Information Dis-connect between international and local actors
6. Role of information strategies in 2015 General Election

Team Members

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Financial Supporters

Thank You