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Living in a literate world

The paper presents a nested model "The Spheres of Literacy" as a framework for living in a literate world, reflecting the idea that literacy is a human right. The spheres represent the relationship of five all-encompassing concepts, which are 1) functional literacy, 2) specialised literacy, 3) cultural and multicultural literacy, 4) critical literacy, and 5) a composite of the views that define the construct of literacy in a literate world. Each of the spheres has distinct characteristics that can be translated into goals, standards and outcomes in relation to conceptualising proficiency in the levels of multi-faceted literacy that are needed for today's world. This may then guide the determination of objectives for curriculum, for instruction and for the assessment of a broad view of what it means to be literate and how to achieve this goal. The model is based upon an extensive review of various approaches to conceptualising literacy.