

Article-
Encyclopedia class

During Spring Semester, 2009, Media Literacy graduate students, under the direction of Art Silverblatt, will serve as Contributing Editors on the Encyclopedia of Media Literacy (Praeger Press).

Media literacy is a critical thinking skill that is applied to the source of most of our information: the channels of mass communication. Published in 1995, the first edition of the *Dictionary of Media Literacy* was an important project, adding legitimacy to this new academic field. The *Dictionary of Media Literacy* provided information about the following areas of the discipline:

- Concepts and Principles
- Areas of Study (e.g., Journalism, Advertising, Political Communications)
- Methodologies
- International Programs in Media Literacy
- Sectors of Media Literacy (e.g., Education, Community Media, Media Activism)
- Media Literacy Organizations
- Significant Figures in Media Literacy
- Media Literacy Programs
- Assessment Strategies

- New Developments in Media
- Media Literacy Terms
- Media Literacy Resources (websites)

Since the first edition of this text was published in 1995, much has happened in the world of media. The second edition will provide updates in these areas, as well as provide updated references, conceptual changes, new developments in the field of media literacy, and the evolution of media systems-- particularly in the field of Digital Media

Because of the growing interest in the field of media literacy, I am confident that a second edition of the text will be well received. Media Literacy is an international discipline, with sophisticated programs throughout the globe. In terms of the U.S., a study by Professor Robert Kuby and Frank Baker has found that Media Literacy can now be found in the statement of educational standards in all fifty states. Moreover, the number of college and universities that offer media literacy courses or programs has tripled in the past five years.

I envision the book project being incorporated into a year-long seminar at Webster University, in which media literacy students would receive credit as contributing editors for conducting research. The students would work closely with Co-executive Editors Ellen Eliceiri, Head of Reference and Public Services at Webster University, and myself. These students would develop an in-depth understanding of areas of media literacy.

The project would begin during the fall of 2008, with a tentative completion in the spring of 2009.

I am including a copy of my vita and brief bio for your consideration. If you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to hearing from you soon about the project.

Sincerely,

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