



The Rosetta Stone, featuring Hieroglyphic, Demotic and Greek, portrays the rich history of literacy, and was key to deciphering the Ancient Egyptian language and script. Photo: FlickrR/'Rosetta stone by Kosuth' Le.Mat

08.09.2016 – Without literacy, this article could never have been written let alone read. A skill dating back to prehistory, how is it that so many are still deprived of literacy?

Literacy, referring to the abilities to read and write text, is a vital skill. Only since the late 19th century has literacy had such a narrow definition; it also retains its earlier meaning to be 'familiar with literature' or, more generally, 'well educated, learned'.

[International Literacy Day](#) in 2016 has been given the theme "Reading the Past, Writing the Future". To celebrate its 50th anniversary, a conference is taking place on 8-9 September at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris. In combination with the fact that 2016 is the first year for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals including [number 4](#), which aims to achieve literacy and numeracy targets for all youth and a substantial proportion of adults by 2030, this promises to be a powerful event. At the same time the Global Alliance for Literacy (GAL) will be launched, to make all major stakeholders pull together to promote literacy as a foundation for learning.

The provision of basic skills improves not only adults' chances of employment, but also supports their personal development, enabling them to become 'more satisfied with their lives', asserted Dr. Maja Makovec Brenčič, Slovenian Minister of Education, Science and Sport, during the [European Basic Skills Network](#) (EBSN) in June 2016.



Source:

https://www.fda.gov/oc/ohrt/ohrt-report-2015-2016.pdf



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