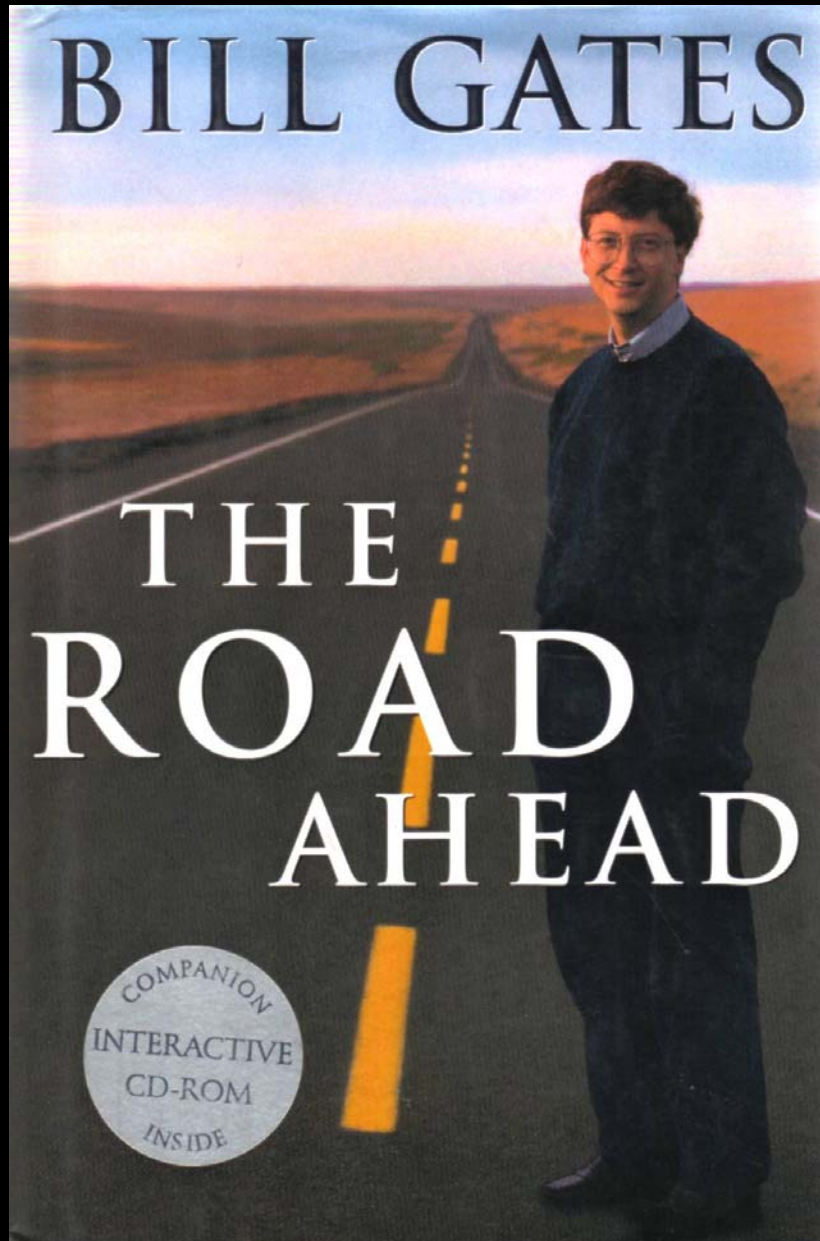


BILL GATES

THE
ROAD
AHEAD

COMPANION
INTERACTIVE
CD-ROM
INSIDE



Once even the most modest positive atmosphere for education is established, the information highway will help raise the educational standards for everyone in future generations.

Bill Gates, *The Road Ahead*, First Edition, 1995

'WHEN MUSLIMS PUT THE
PROPHET ON A PEDESTAL, WE
ENGAGE IN IDOLATRY OF OUR
OWN' RICHARD HANUS 14



'THAT'S A FUNNY WAY TO MANAGE AN
HE SYSTEM' SIR HOWARD NEWBY ON
THE GOVERNMENT AS HE
BOWS OUT OF REFUGE 2



THE TIMES

HIGHER

EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT

Tutors in despair at illiterate freshers

By Andrew Johnson

It is a common sight at the start of the academic year: a young man or woman, looking nervous and unsure, standing in a queue outside a university building. They are the "freshers", the new students who have just arrived at university. But what is less common is to see a tutor, a member of staff who is responsible for teaching and supervising the students, looking at a student with a look of despair. The reason for this is that the student is illiterate. They cannot read or write, and this is a problem that is becoming increasingly common at universities across the country.

The problem of illiterate freshers is a serious one, and it is one that is being ignored by many universities. The fact is that a significant number of students who enter university are unable to read or write. This is a problem that is caused by a number of factors, including a lack of access to education in primary and secondary schools, and a lack of support for students who are struggling with their studies.



Driving you mad: the politics of parking 14

Students, think twice before you tick us off

By Peter Hain

It is a common sight at the start of the academic year: a young man or woman, looking nervous and unsure, standing in a queue outside a university building. They are the "freshers", the new students who have just arrived at university. But what is less common is to see a tutor, a member of staff who is responsible for teaching and supervising the students, looking at a student with a look of despair. The reason for this is that the student is illiterate. They cannot read or write, and this is a problem that is becoming increasingly common at universities across the country.

Literacy of College Graduates Is on Decline

Survey's Finding of a Drop in Reading Proficiency Is Inexplicable, Experts Say

By Lois Romano
Washington Post Staff Writer
Sunday, December 25, 2005; A12

Literacy experts and educators say they are stunned by the results of a recent adult literacy assessment, which shows that the reading proficiency of college graduates has declined in the past decade, with no obvious explanation.

"It's appalling -- it's really astounding," said Michael Gorman, president of the American Library Association and a librarian at California State University at Fresno. "Only 31 percent of college graduates can read a complex book and extrapolate from it. That's not saying much for the remainder."

While more Americans are graduating from college, and more than ever are applying for admission, far fewer are leaving higher education with the skills needed to comprehend routine data, such as reading a table about the relationship between blood pressure and physical activity, according to the federal study conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics.

Experts could not definitively explain the drop.

"The declining impact of education on our adult population was the biggest surprise for us, and we just don't have a good explanation," said Mark S. Schneider, commissioner of education statistics. "It may be that institutions have not yet figured out how to teach a whole generation of students who learned to read on the computer and who watch more TV. It's a different kind of literacy."

"What's disturbing is that the assessment is not designed to test your understanding of Proust, but to test your ability to read labels," he added.

The test measures how well adults comprehend basic instructions and tasks through reading -- such as computing costs per ounce of food items, comparing viewpoints on two editorials and reading prescription labels. Only 41 percent of graduate students tested in 2003 could be classified as "proficient" in prose -- reading and understanding information in short texts -- down 10 percentage points since 1992. Of college graduates, only 31 percent were classified as proficient -- compared with 40 percent in 1992. Schneider said the results do not separate recent graduates from those who have been out of school several years or more.

The results were based on a sample of more than 19,000 people 16 or older, who were interviewed in their homes. They were asked to read prose, do math and find facts in documents. The scores for "intermediate" reading abilities went up for college students, causing educators to question whether most college instruction is offered at the intermediate level because students face reading challenges.

Gorman said that he has been shocked by how few entering freshmen understand how to use a basic library system, or enjoy reading for pleasure. "There is a failure in the core values of education," he said. "They're told to go to college in order to get a better job -- and that's okay. But the real task is to produce educated people."

Other experts noted that the slip in scores could be attributed to most state schools not being particularly selective, accepting most high school graduates to bolster enrollment. In addition, Schneider said schools may not be taking into account a more diverse population, and the language and cultural barriers that come with shifting demographics.

That would account for the dramatic drop in average prose literacy for Hispanics, which slipped by 18 percentage points, he said. "The Hispanic scores were somewhat understandable based on the changing demographics," Schneider said. "Diversity may lead to more difficulties in education."

Dolores Perin, a reading expert at Columbia University Teachers College, said that her work has indicated that the issue may start at the high school level. "There is a tremendous literacy problem among high school graduates that is not talked about," said Perin, who has been sitting in on high school classes as part of a teaching project. "It's a little bit depressing. The colleges are left holding the bag, trying to teach students who have challenges."

On average, adult literacy is virtually unchanged since 1992, with 30 million people struggling with basic reading tasks. While adults made some progress in quantitative literacy, such as the ability to calculate taxes, the study showed that from 1992 to 2003 adults made no improvement in their ability read newspapers or books, or comprehend basic forms.

One bright spot is that blacks are making significant gains in reading and math and are reaching higher levels of education. For instance, the report showed that the average rate of prose literacy, or reading, among blacks rose six percentage points since 1992. Prose and document reading scores for whites remained the same.

Table 8. Percentage of adults in each prose, document, and quantitative literacy level, by educational attainment: 1992 and 2003

Literacy scale and educational attainment	<i>Below Basic</i>		<i>Basic</i>		<i>Intermediate</i>		<i>Proficient</i>	
	1992	2003	1992	2003	1992	2003	1992	2003
Prose								
Still in high school	11	14	36	37	47	45	6	4
Less than/some high school	45	50*	38	33*	17	16	1	1
GED/high school equivalency	9	10	42	45	46	43	3	3
High school graduate	11	13	37	39	48	44*	5	4
Vocational/trade/business school	9	10	29	36*	53	49	9	5*
Some college	4	5	23	25	59	59	14	11
Associate's/2-year degree	2	4*	16	20*	58	56	23	19
College graduate	2	3	10	14*	49	53	40	31*
Graduate studies/degree	1	1	6	10*	43	48	51	41*
Document								
Still in high school	10	13	24	24	57	54	9	9
Less than/some high school	44	45	32	29*	23	25	1	2
GED/high school equivalency	9	13	31	30	58	53	3	4
High school graduate	12	13	28	29	54	52	6	5
Vocational/trade/business school	8	9	22	26	60	59	10	7
Some college	4	5	15	19*	67	65	14	10
Associate's/2-year degree	3	3	12	15	60	66*	25	16
College graduate	2	2	9	11	52	62*	37	25*
Graduate studies/degree	1	1	5	9*	48	59*	45	31*

Source: National Assessment of Adult Literacy



world history

**Web**Results 1 - 10 of about 1,430,000,000 for [world history](#) (0.10 seconds)[World History](#)[www.loc.gov](#) A One-Stop Guide to U.S. **History**. View Exclusive Online Collections.

Sponsored Link

Sponsored Links

[World History : HyperHistory](#)HyperHistory Online navigates through 3000 years of **world history** with timelines of civilizations (plus maps), people, and events.[www.hyperhistory.com/online_n2/History_n2/a.html](#) - 2k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)[World History](#)"HyperHistory Online navigates through 3 000 years of **World History** with links to important persons of **world** historical importance; civilization timelines; ...[www.hyperhistory.com/](#) - 7k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)[History World](#)Describes **world history** in interconnecting narratives and illustrated timelines. You can search for events by theme, place and year.[www.historyworld.net/](#) - 21k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)[World History Archives](#)A collection of documents for teaching and learning about **world history** from a working class perspective.[www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/](#) - 9k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)[World History](#)

Ideas, attitudes and conflicts, from the origins of religion to the 21st century, with timelines, maps and summaries of recent books.

[www.fsmitha.com/](#) - 14k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)[The Encyclopedia of World History, Sixth Edition, 2001](#)

Comprehensive chronology of more than 20000 entries that span the millennia from prehistoric times to the year 2000.

[www.bartleby.com/67/](#) 21k [Cached](#) [Similar pages](#)[World History Compass Home Page](#)Provides categorized links to hundreds of **history** sites on the Web. For students, teachers, historians, writers and journalists.[www.worldhistorycompass.com/](#) - 41k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)[Women In World History Curriculum](#)Interactive site full of information and resources about women's experiences in **world history**. For teachers, teenagers, parents, and **history** buffs.[www.womeninworldhistory.com/](#) - 17k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)[The History Channel](#)**History** International - The **History** Channel en Español - Military **History** Channel - The **History** Channel around the world ...[www.historychannel.com/](#) - 58k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)[World History](#)A timeline of **history** from the formation of the Earth to the present. From Infoplease.[www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0001196.html](#) - 14k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)Try your search again on [Google Book Search](#)Result Page: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [7](#) [8](#) [9](#) [10](#) [Next](#)Free! Speed up the web. [Download the Google Web Accelerator.](#)

world history

[Search within results](#) | [Language Tools](#) | [Search Tips](#) | [Dissatisfied? Help us improve](#)



Cluster by: Topics

All Results (224)

- Image (25)
 - Timeline (20)
 - Ancient (12)
 - Articles (15)
 - Books (14)
 - Women (11)
 - Modern (9)
 - Music (8)
 - High school (8)
 - Program, World History Association (5)
- [more | all clusters](#)

Tell us what you think.
clusty@clusty.com

- Open in new window
- Show in clusters
- Toggle preview frame
- Expand clusters

Top 224 results of at least 98,340,000 retrieved for the query [world history](#) (Details)

History Research

Over 30,000 **history** books/articles at **world's** largest online library. www.questia.com

Teaching History

New MA course from the Institute of Education, London www.londonexternal.ac.uk/education

1. **World History**

A narrative on trends, successes and failures across the ages in power conflicts, religion, philosophy, and political institutions. Also, **monthly commentaries with a historical perspective.**
fsmitha.com - [cache] - Looksmart, Gigablast, MSN Search, Wisenut, Ask, Open Directory
2. **World History**

"HyperHistory Online navigates through 3 000 years of **World History** with links to important persons of **world historical** importance; civilization timelines; events and facts; and **historical** maps."
www.hyperhistory.com - [cache] - MSN Search, Ask, Gigablast, Wisenut
3. **World History**

World History is a discrete field of **historical study** that originated in the 1990s. It examines history from a global perspective. The study of world history is in some ways a product of the current period of accelerated globalization. This period is tending to both integrate various cultures and to highlight their differences.
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_History - [cache] - Wikipedia
4. **World History Archives**

A collection of documents for teaching and learning about **world history** from a working class perspective.
www.hartford-hwp.com/archives - [cache] - Wisenut, Looksmart, MSN Search, Ask
5. **World History : HyperHistory**

HyperHistory Online navigates through 3,000 years of **world history** with timelines of civilizations (plus maps), people, and events.
www.hyperhistory.com/online_n2/History_n2/a.html - [cache] - MSN Search, Gigablast, Ask
6. **Women In World History Curriculum**

Interactive site full of information and resources about women's experiences in **world history**. For teachers, teenagers, parents, and **history** buffs.
www.womeninworldhistory.com - [cache] - Gigablast, Wisenut, Ask, MSN Search, Open Directory
7. **World History Blog**

Blog that features all aspects of **world history**. Sites dealing with any **historical** issue or topic are possible future posts. Also includes sites which discuss teaching **history**.
world-history-blog.blogspot.com - [cache] - Open Directory, MSN Search, Looksmart, Wisenut, Ask
8. **The Encyclopedia of World History, Sixth Edition, 2001**

All Bartleby.com --- All Reference --- Columbia Encyclopedia **World History** Encyclopedia Cultural Literacy **World** Factbook Columbia Gazetteer American Heritage Coll. Dictionary Roget's Thesauri Roget's II
www.bartleby.com/67 - [cache] - Wisenut, MSN Search, Ask, Gigablast

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Next »





WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

navigation

- Main Page
- Community Portal
- Current events
- Recent changes
- Random article
- Help
- Contact Wikipedia
- Donations

search

toolbox

- What links here
- Related changes
- Upload file
- Special pages
- Printable version
- Permanent link
- Cite this article

in other languages

- עברית
- Deutsch

Your continued donations keep Wikipedia running!

World History

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This article is about the field of historical study known as World History. For the actual history, see History of the World.

World History is a field of [historical study](#) that originated in the 1980s. It examines history from a global perspective.

Unlike history writing of the 19th and most of the 20th centuries, which focused on narratives of individuals, and on national and ethnic perspectives, World History looks for common [patterns](#) that emerge across all cultures. World historians use a [thematic](#) approach, with two major focal points: [integration](#) (how processes of world history have drawn peoples of the world together) and [difference](#) (how patterns of world history reveal the [diversity](#) of the human experience).

The study of world history is in some ways a product of the current period of accelerated globalization. This period is tending both to integrate various cultures and to highlight their differences.

The advent of World History as a distinct field of study was heralded in the 1980s by the creation of the [World History Association](#)^[1] and of graduate programs at a handful of universities. Over the past 20 years, scholarly publications, professional and academic organizations, and graduate programs in World History have proliferated. It has become an increasingly popular approach to teaching history in United States high schools and colleges. Many new [textbooks](#) are being published with a World History approach.

Marshall Hodgson's writings were a precursor to the modern World History approach and in many ways are yet to be surpassed (see Marshall G.S. Hodgson, *Rethinking World History: Essays on Europe, Islam, and World History*, Cambridge, 1993).

See also

[\[edit\]](#)

- Big History
- Guns, Germs and Steel
- History rhymes

[\[edit\]](#)

External links

- [World History Timeline on Google Maps](#)
- [Bridging World History](#)
- [China and Europe](#)
- [Journal of World History](#)
- [World History Connected](#)
- [World History For Us All](#)
- [World History Matters](#)
- [WWW-VL World History Index](#)
- [World History Blog](#) - Blog that features different aspects of world history.

Category: Historiography



This page was last modified 03:05, 23 February 2006. All text is available under the terms of the GNU Free Documentation License (see [Copyrights](#) for details).

Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.

[Privacy policy](#) [About Wikipedia](#) [Disclaimers](#)





Choose a content source:

Encyclopædia Britannica	290
Concise Encyclopedia	6
Media	3
Videos	6
Websites	93

SEARCH RESULTS

Results 1-10 of 290

Next Page

> [The history of Christian missions](#)
 from the Christianity article

The Christian mission, the church, and Christianity—each distinguishable, but inseparably related—have experienced across 20 centuries of world history four major transitions.

> [Zonaras, Joannes](#)

Byzantine historian whose world history, *Historical Epitome*, extending from the creation to 1118, provides valuable information on the 11th century.

> [Russia](#) *Britannica Book of the Year 2002*

from the Performing Arts article

The lawlessness of contemporary Russian urban life was featured in Andrey Nekrasov's *Lyubov i drugie koshmari* (2000); *Lubov and Other Nightmares*, which centred on a transvestite professional ...

> [History](#)

from the Croatia article

The territory of Croatia bridges the central European and Mediterranean worlds, and its history has been marked by this position as a borderland. It lay near the division between the two halves of ...

> [Gama, Vasco da, 1er Conde \(1st count\) Da Vidigueira](#)



Portuguese navigator whose voyages to India (1497-99, 1502-03, 1524) opened up the sea route from western Europe to the East by way of the Cape of Good Hope and thus ushered in a new era in world ...

> [Hegel](#)

from the political philosophy article

Whereas the utopian reformers had discarded metaphysical arguments, the German philosopher G.W.F. Hegel claimed to apprehend the totality of the cosmos by speculative cognition. Like Vico, he saw the ...

> [Davidescu, Nicolae](#)

Romanian poet and novelist whose early poems, *Inscript* (1916), showed the influence of Charles Baudelaire. Among his prose works the novel *Zăna din fundul lacului* (1912); "The Fairy at the Bottom of ...

> [Historiography: Ibn Khaldun](#)

from the arts, Islamic article

Any survey of western Muslim literary achievements would be incomplete if it did not mention the most profound historiographer of the Islamic world, the Tunisian Ibn Khaldun (died 1406). History has ...

> [The Turks](#)

from the Central Asia, history of article

In 552 the Juan-juan empire was destroyed by a revolution of considerable consequences for world history. The tribe of the Turks (Tu-chüeh in Chinese transcription), living within the Juan-juan ...

> [Tours, Battle of](#)

(October 732), victory won by Charles Martel, the de facto ruler of the Frankish kingdoms, over Muslim invaders from Spain. The battlefield cannot be exactly located, but it was fought somewhere ...

More Search Results: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Next Page

> For information on how to improve your search results, see [search tips](#).

Everything Bad Is Good For You



How Today's
Popular Culture Is
Actually Making
Us Smarter

Steven
Johnson

bestselling author of

MIND WIDE OPEN