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# NOW WHAT?

## Lifelong Learning Practices of Recent College Grads

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 #projectinfolit

APRIL 19, 2016



# Project Information Literacy

- Who We Are
  - What is Lifelong Learning?
  - Lifelong Learning Study
  - Research Findings
  - Now What?
-

# WHO WE ARE

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Project Information Literacy



# WHAT IS LIFELONG LEARNING?

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# Lifelong Learning

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Lifelong learning is a continuous, intentional, and self-directed process that people engage in throughout their lives to acquire knowledge and skills to remain employable and competitive in the workplace, to be productive citizens, and to enjoy personal growth.

--Commission for a Nation of Lifelong Learning

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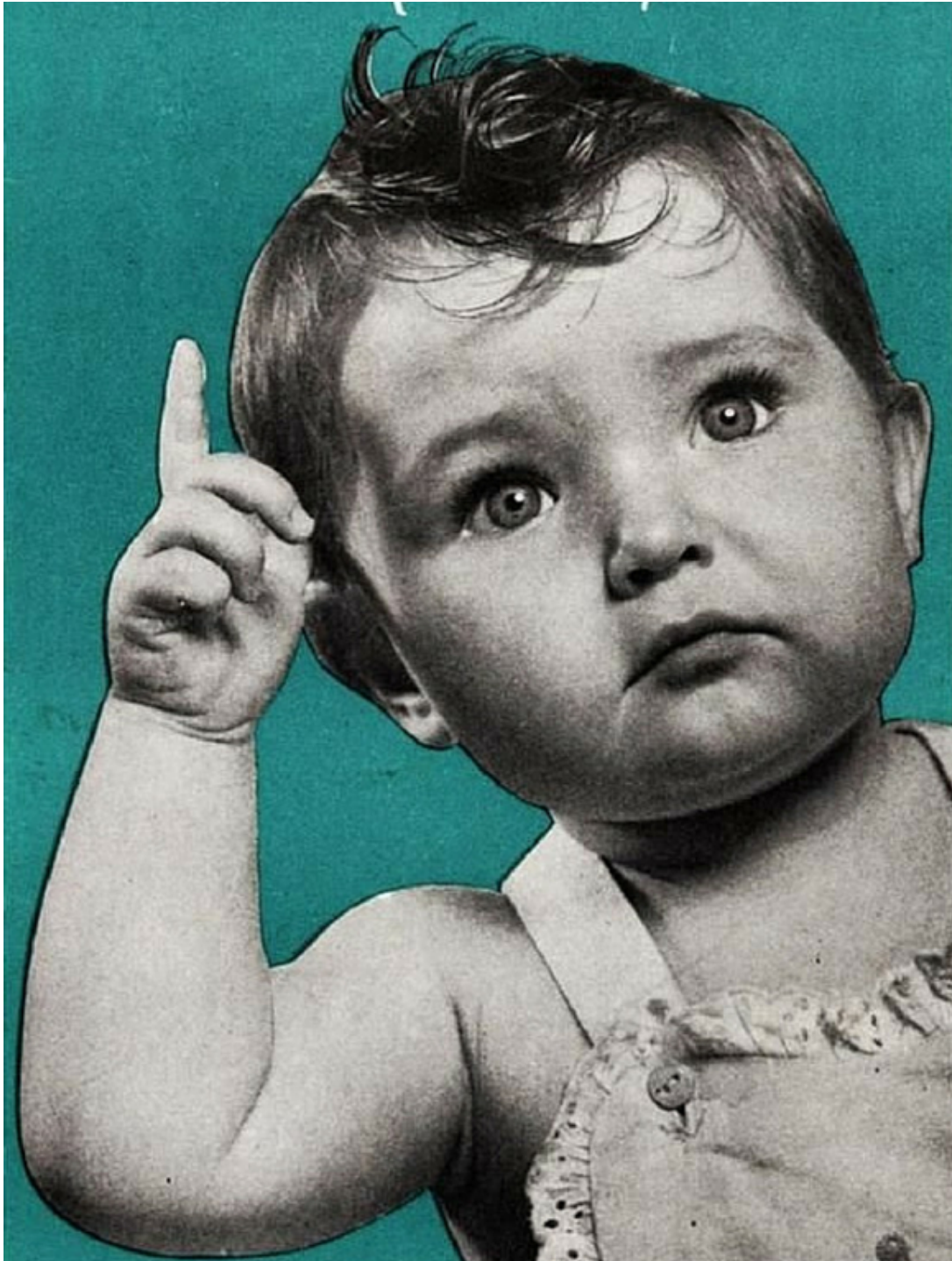
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**QUESTIONS?**

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# LIFELONG LEARNING STUDY DESIGN

## 2-YEAR STUDY IMLS FUNDING

1

### Initial Interviews

Spring 2014,  
qualitative

n=63

2

### Online Survey

Fall 2014,  
quantitative

n=1651

3

### Follow-Ups

Spring 2015,  
qualitative

n=63

4

### Report Released

January 2016

10 solutions

# HOW DO YOU "STAY SMART" AFTER COLLEGE?



# Smart Cities

- Fastest growing areas with recent grads
- Areas thrive with career opportunities
- Sample of grads from 10 US colleges and universities



## **Austin, TX**

University of Texas, Austin

## **Columbus, OH**

The Ohio State University

## **Charlotte, NC**

University of North Carolina

## **Las Vegas, NV**

University of Nevada

## **Nashville, TN**

Belmont University

## **Orlando, FL**

University of Central Florida

## **Phoenix, AZ**

Phoenix College

## **Riverside, CA**

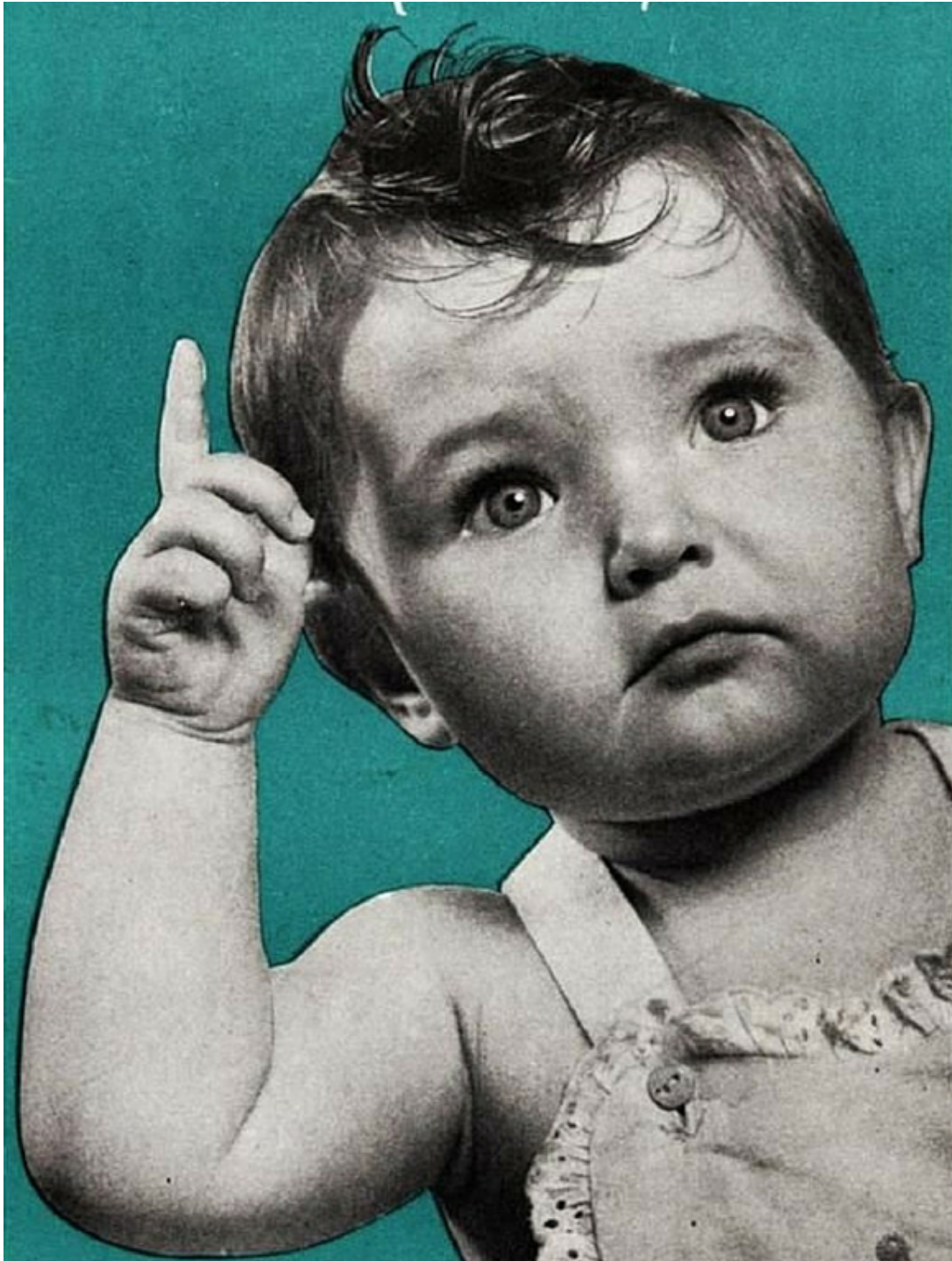
University of Redlands

## **San Antonio, TX**

Trinity University

## **Seattle, WA**

University of Washington



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**QUESTIONS?**

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# WHAT DID WE LEARN?

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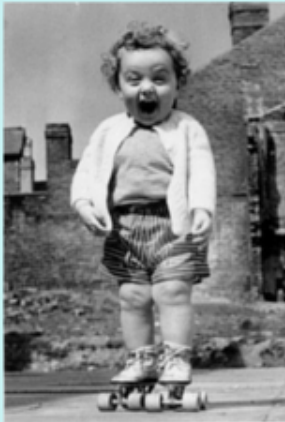




# 3 Research Takeaways



**Today's grads are surprised  
by all they need to learn  
after college.**



**Grads use Google searches  
–but they turn to people  
almost as much.**



**In most cases, but not all,  
critical thinking skills are  
transferable from college.**



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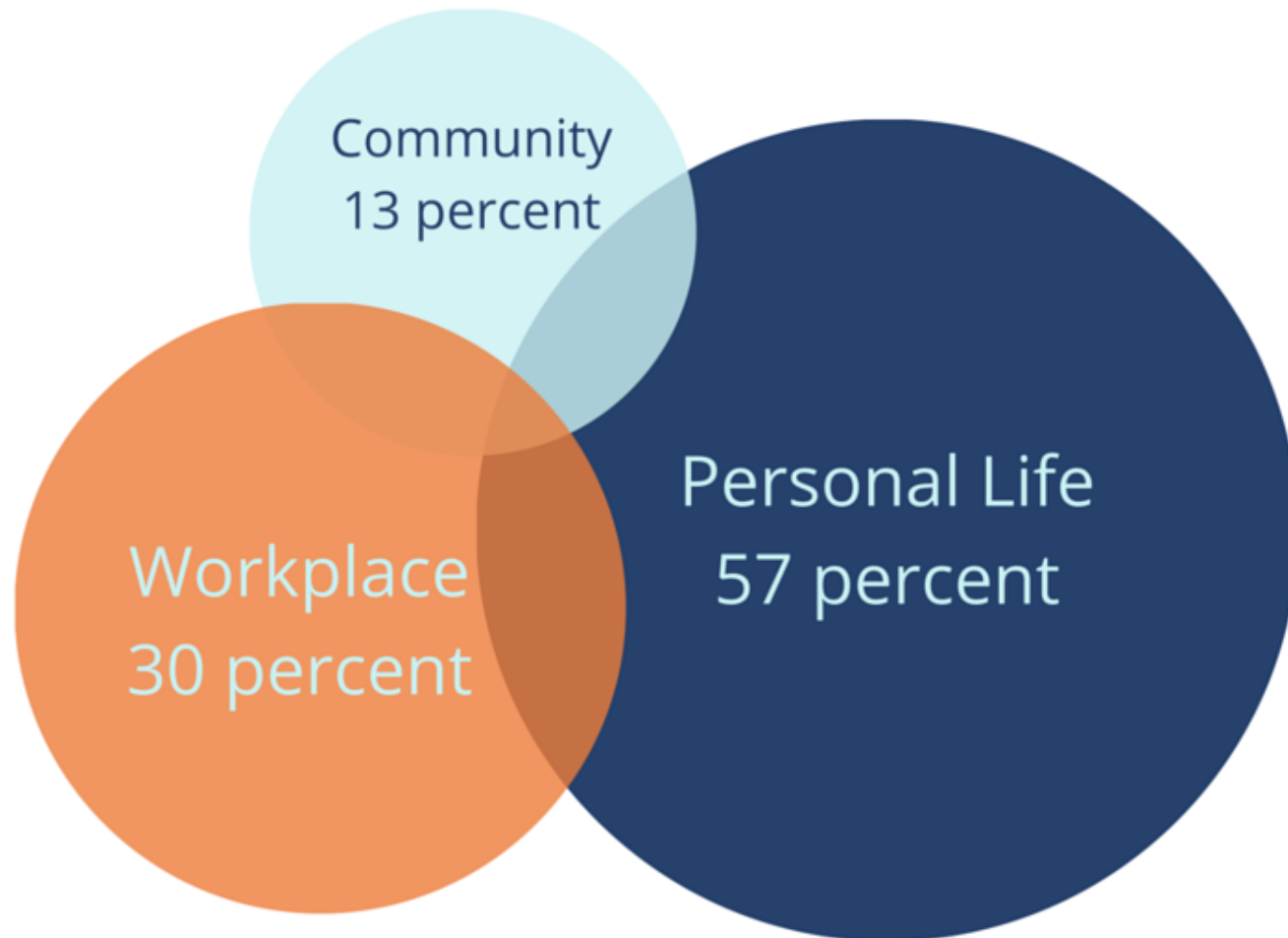
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# Where do learning needs occur in "real life"?



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## Personal Life

How-to Info	75%
Hobbies	70%
Money Mngt.	69%
Purchases	63%
Interpersonal	44%

## Workplace

Career Dev.	69%
Computers	57%
Interpersonal	56%
Mobile Devices	32%
Social Contacts	25%

## Community

Civic Action	25%
Volunteering	24%
Interpersonal	16%
Social Contacts	14%
Working w/Kids	13%

## Personal Life

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## Personal Life

<b>Search Engines</b>	<b>88%</b>
Friends	79%
Social Networks	79%
Family	77%
Public Libraries	45%

## Workplace

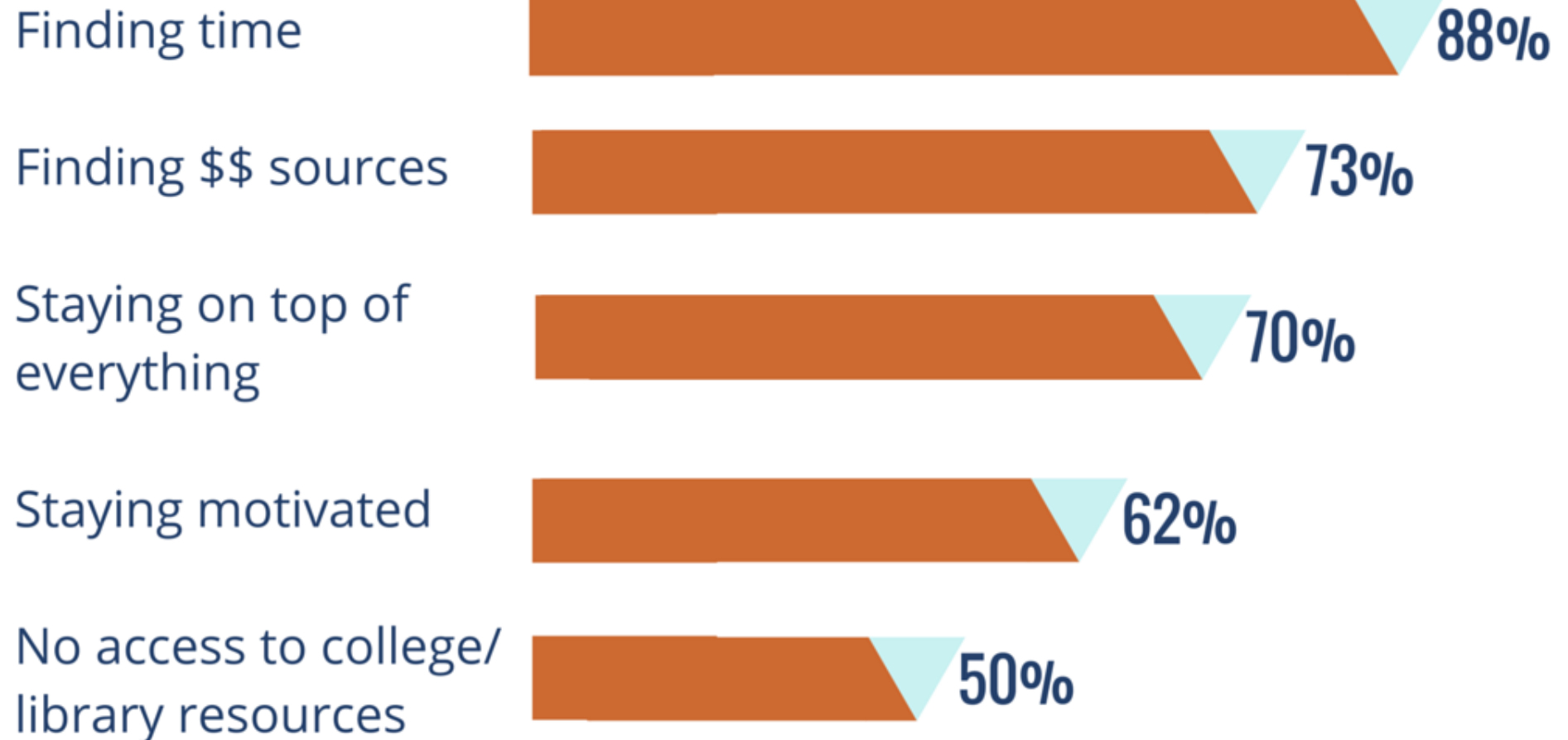
Co-workers	84%
<b>Search Engines</b>	<b>83%</b>
Boss	79%
Books	51%
Conferences	49%

## Community

<b>Search Engines</b>	<b>38%</b>
Social Networks	26%
Friends	24%
News Sources	23%
Family	15%



# Challenges—even in the digital age!



2015 Lifelong Learning Survey, ("strongly agree" + "somewhat agree") | n=1651





# What are the critical thinking takeaways from college?



**Interpreting**

**76 percent**

**Applying**

**76 percent**

**Metacognition**

**74 percent**

**Searching**

**72 percent**

**Questioning**

**27 percent**

# Questioning is an essential critical thinking skill for lifelong learning.

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Framing and asking questions as a self-motivated learner.

Asking questions until a topic is understood + staying motivated to follow questioning to keep learning

## Searching

formulating strategy + using mixed sources + re-researching

## Interpreting

sorting + extracting + "close" reading + evaluating credibility

## Applying

drawing conclusions + communicating + presenting results

## Metacognition

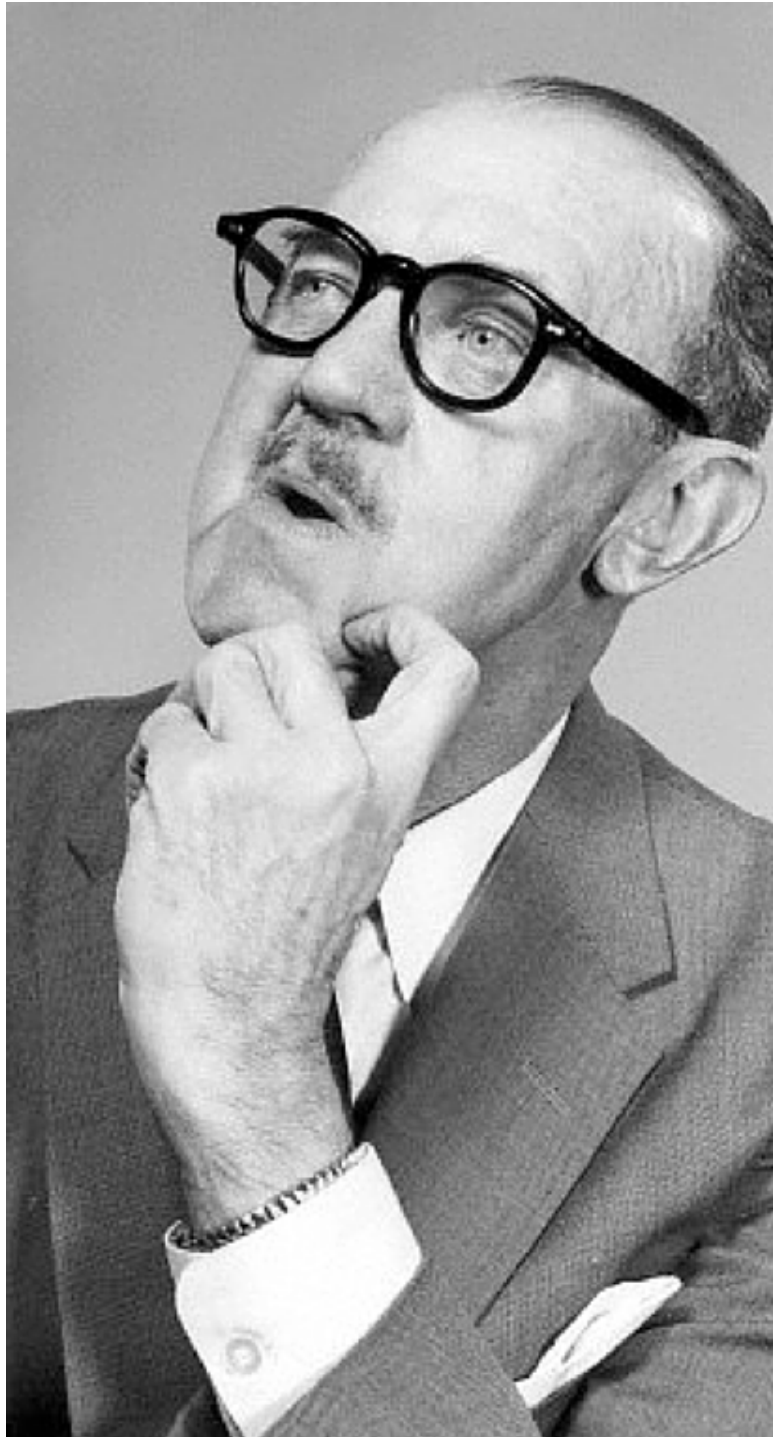
ability to learn anything + teach someone else

# Good News:

College and universities are turning out graduates who are specialized, employable, and highly proficient information seekers.

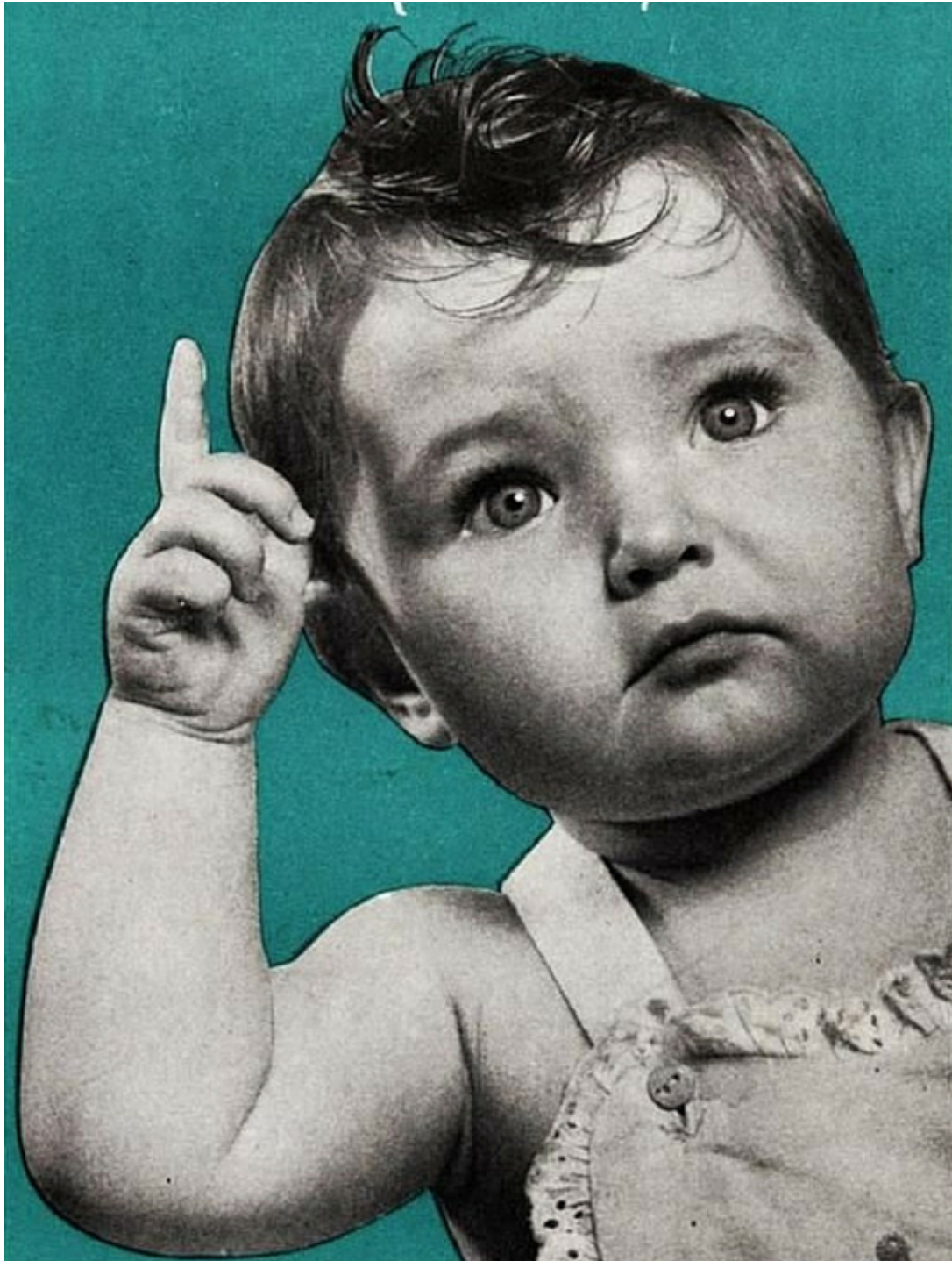






# Not-So-Good News:

Formulating and asking their own questions was the one skill a majority of grads had not developed in college, but found they inevitably needed in their post-college lives.



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**QUESTIONS?**

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**NOW WHAT?**





# Where do we go from here?

PIL made **10** practical recommendations for academic, public, and school libraries after analyzing the results and consulting the Lifelong Learning Advisory Board\*.

\*see appendix A in PIL's full report for information about the LLL Advisory Board.



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# ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

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**Recommendation: Integrate the social side of research into college curricula.**



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## PUBLIC LIBRARIES

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**Recommendation: Design libraries as "gathering places" for informal and formal learning.**

**Recommendation: Embed lifelong learning sources across settings, both physically and virtually.**



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## SCHOOL LIBRARIES

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**Recommendation: Begin teaching information competencies early, and continue throughout students' formal education.**



## Peak your interest? Learn more!

- Our website: <http://projectinfolit.org/>
- Results Infographic: <http://bit.ly/1oxmzfX>
- LLL Lit Review: <http://bit.ly/1mG4JWx>
- Phase 1 Results: <http://bit.ly/1QGYv0Z>
- Phase 2 Results: <http://bit.ly/1QkbO6V>
- Full Report: <http://bit.ly/1PiX2gy>
- Results Video: <http://bit.ly/20Y3vsK>
- Inside Higher Ed: <http://bit.ly/1PDy0f4>

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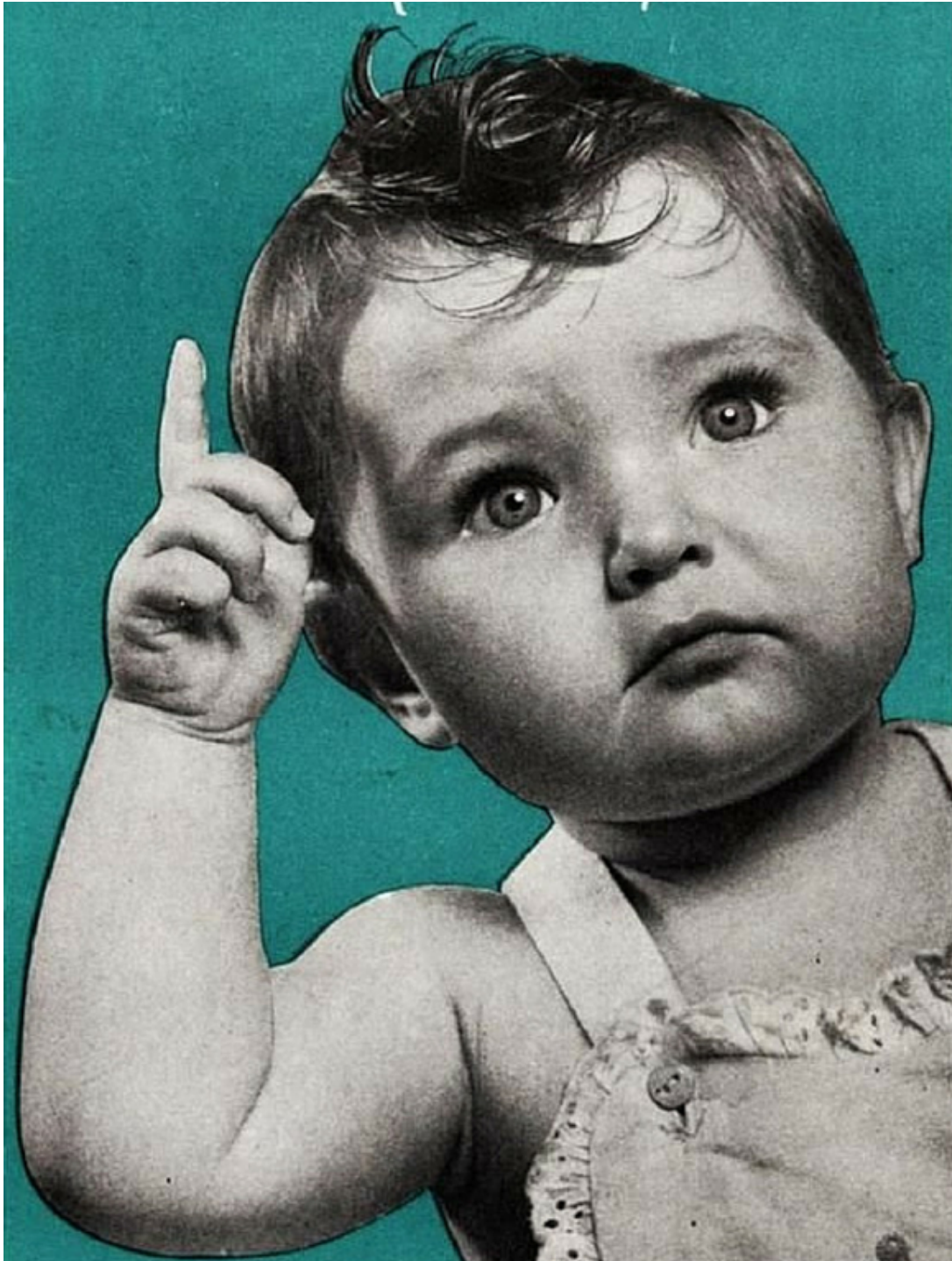


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**QUESTIONS?**

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