Acquisition and Decline of Literacy Over Life

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Comments on Use it or Lose it
Ken Mayhew
The main question

To what extent the processes of accumulation and depreciation of key information processing skills differ between younger and older people and how these processes are affected by individual factors.
The Important Factors

- Formal education
- Use of relevant skills at home
- Use of relevant skills at work
- Work experience; age and time that has elapsed since leaving education
- Health, non-formal training, volunteering
- Not having worked in the past 12 months
Specific issues

- Range of values of the two independent variables
- Starting point on the scale
- Correlation or causation; direction of causation
- Training variable
- Country by country differences
- Omitted variables
General issues

- The role of formal education – warehousing
- Other aspects of skill appreciation and depreciation
- Fluid intelligence and crystallised intelligence
- Job quality
- Training and older workers
Implications

• The labour market context
• The urgency of the problem?
• Scarring
• Older workers in the labour market
• Policy makers
Thank you for your attention