Topic: Digital Literacy

Focus: access, equity

1. **Introduction to Equity and Digital Literacies: Access, Ethics, and Engagements**

(Rogers, T., S. Smythe, R. Darvin, and J. Anderson. “Introduction to Equity and Digital Literacies: Access, Ethics, and Engagements”. *Language and Literacy*, Vol. 20, no. 3, July 2018, pp. 1-8, doi:10.20360/langandlit29405.)

* In what ways do you think that digital literacy creates inequity where it did not exist before?
* What steps do you think are necessary in order to create a more equitable environment around digital literacy?
* “However, given that the phenomenon of digital practices occurs in broader social, political, and economic contexts, a more critical model of digital literacy (Warschauer, 2009) allows us to examine both the modes of inclusion and exclusion shaped by digital technologies.”
  + “As advanced capitalist countries transition to a postindustrial capitalism where material production is replaced by information processing and automation, being able to use technology has become “the critical factor in generating and accessing wealth, power, and knowledge” (Castells, 2010, p. 93).”
  + “At the same time, as the fulcrum of capitalist society in the knowledge economy, technology can lead to “one of the most damaging forms of exclusion” (Castells, 2010, p. 3). “
* “When digitization is set against this wider backdrop of society, tensions and imbalances of power inevitably surface. How one is able to access and use technology is not only dependent on one’s possession of economic capital, but also contingent on government, institutions, and policies that enable such access among individuals and groups.”

1. **What’s missing in the digital world? Access, digital literacy and digital citizenship**

(G E Gorman, (2015) "What’s missing in the digital world? Access, digital literacy and digital citizenship", Online Information Review, Vol. 39 Issue: 2, <https://doi-org.libproxy.lib.unc.edu/10.1108/OIR-02-2015-0053>)

* Do you think the criteria for what makes a digital citizen is a fair measure?
* Have you thought extensively about access or is it something that never really crossed your mind?
* “Those of us who have access to digital technologies can easily forget that access does not come so easily to some, and digital development is uneven across the world.”
* “This requires that we go beyond simple information literacy, which focuses on the information being accessed and its quality, and understand the medium transmitting the information and the enabling ICTs.”

# Collecting Questionnaire and Interview Data: Evaluating Approaches to Developing Digital Literacy Skills

**(**Nix, I., & Hall, M. (2016). Collecting questionnaire and interview data: Evaluating approaches to developing digital literacy skills. SAGE Research Methods Cases. doi:10.4135/978144627305015595384**)**

* Are there ways to develop these skills that wouldn’t put certain groups at a disadvantage?
* Why do you think gender creates a disparity in digital skills?
* “Those people who have grown up with computers and the Internet are often described as the ‘net generation’ (a term originally coined by Don Tapscott in 1998) or ‘digital natives’ (a term introduced by Marc Prensky in 2001).”
* “We also investigated whether other demographic factors such as gender, previous educational qualifications or disability affected the way learners viewed module materials and their own skills development.”

# The media and the literacies: media literacy, information literacy, digital literacy

(Koltay, T. (2011). The media and the literacies: media literacy, information literacy, digital literacy. *Media, Culture & Society*, *33*(2), 211–221. https://doi.org/[10.1177/0163443710393382](https://doi-org.libproxy.lib.unc.edu/10.1177/0163443710393382))

* What importance do you think that digital skills have in our current environment and society?
* Based on how you feel about its importance, should we take more action to achieve equity?
* “The only way to deal with these issues is to employ more digital tools.”
  + “The study of media literacy is highly interdisciplinary, using the tools and methods of sociology, psychology, political theory, gender and race studies, as well as cultural studies, art, and aesthetics.”
* “The vital role of information in the development of democracy, cultural participation and active citizenship also justifies it.”
  + “Using, manipulating and creating information is acquiring growing importance especially for knowledge workers, who increasingly rely on the internet and computing tools (Hobbs, 2007).”

# Digital Literacy: A Conceptual Framework for Survival Skills in the Digital Era

(Eshet-Alkalai, Y. (2004). Digital literacy: A conceptual framework for survival skills in the digital era.*Journal of Educational Multimedia and Hypermedia, 13*(1), 93-106. Retrieved from http://libproxy.lib.unc.edu/login?url=https://search-proquest-com.libproxy.lib.unc.edu/docview/205852670?accountid=14244)

* Is the definition of a digital literacy clear or is it pretty broad?
* Could there be a more organized way to think about digital skills?
* “Development of a more clear-cut conceptual framework may improve the understanding of the skills encompassed by the term "digital literacy," and provide designers of digital environments with more precise guidelines for effective planning of learner-oriented digital work environments (Hamburger, 2002).”
* “The results of the research indicated that the conceptual framework contributes considerably to our understanding of how learners work in digital environments.”