Developing digital and information literacies: teaching for lifelong learning

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Teaching lifelong learning
Information Literacy lies at the core of lifelong learning. It empowers people in all walks of life to seek, evaluate, use and create information effectively to achieve their personal, social, occupational and educational goals. It is a basic human right in a digital world and promotes social inclusion of all nations.
CILIP Definition of Information Literacy 2018

“information literacy is the ability to think critically and make balanced judgements about any information we find and use. It empowers us as citizens to develop informed views and to engage fully with society.”
By digital literacy we mean those capabilities which fit an individual for living, learning and working in a digital society: for example, the skills to use digital tools to undertake academic research, writing and critical thinking; as part of personal development planning; and as a way of showcasing achievements.
My dolly is bigger than yours.......
Academic literacies
learning development

Information literacy
critical thinking and evaluation
Critical analysis
Search skills

New literacies
multimodal learning
Transliteracies

Media Literacy
Critical use of non-textual communication formats

Digital literacy
Ethics and e-safety
Computer literacy and functional skills
Information Literacy: first coined by Paul Zurkowski in 1974
What I’ve learnt from studying information literacy

• Frameworks are helpful
• It’s a global issue
• We need more evidence
What I’ve learnt from teaching information literacy

• Assumptions are dangerous
• Don’t assume teachers know how to teach it
• Complexity and privilege needs exposing
A word about digital natives...
Critical digital literacy

‘broader literacy practices are not going to emerge spontaneously as a result of technology proliferation’

(Hinrichsen and Coombs, 2013, p.4)
Why does it matter?
tech won’t save us
Safiya Umoja Noble

ALGORITHMS OF OPPRESSION
Why is this not a priority?

- It’s hard to assess
- No clear ownership or leaders
- Lack of expertise
- Consequences are seen down the line
- Someone else’s problem?
Liminal spaces......

the transitional period or phase of a rite of passage, during which the participant lacks social status

With thanks to Barbara Fister
What are the solutions?
Top down and bottom up

- Strategy
- Policies
- Tools and technologies
- Guidance and support
Embedding in teacher education

- Teacher training agencies / universities
- Higher Education Academy
- Professional bodies
- Teacher educators
Collaboration
Champions
Highlighting good practice

In schools
In universities
The need for openness and sharing
Our education system needs to respond to the overwhelming and confusing information world. Every school should teach the critical thinking necessary to navigate the internet skeptically.
A Digital Literacy Challenge

To win a copy of Katharine Reedy and Jo Parker’s *Digital Literacy Unpacked*.....

First person to

1) take a selfie and tweet @jsecker

2) Complete the phrase “information and digital literacies matter because......”
Thank you

Any questions?

@jsecker

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informationliteracy.org.uk

copyrightliteracy.org
Further reading


CILIP Definition of Information Literacy (2018) Available at: https://infolit.org.uk/ILdefinitionCILIP2018.pdf

Digital Literacies and Open Practice (2018) City University Module as part of MA in Academic Practice. Available at: https://blogs.city.ac.uk/dilop/


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