

Digital Skills for a Global Society

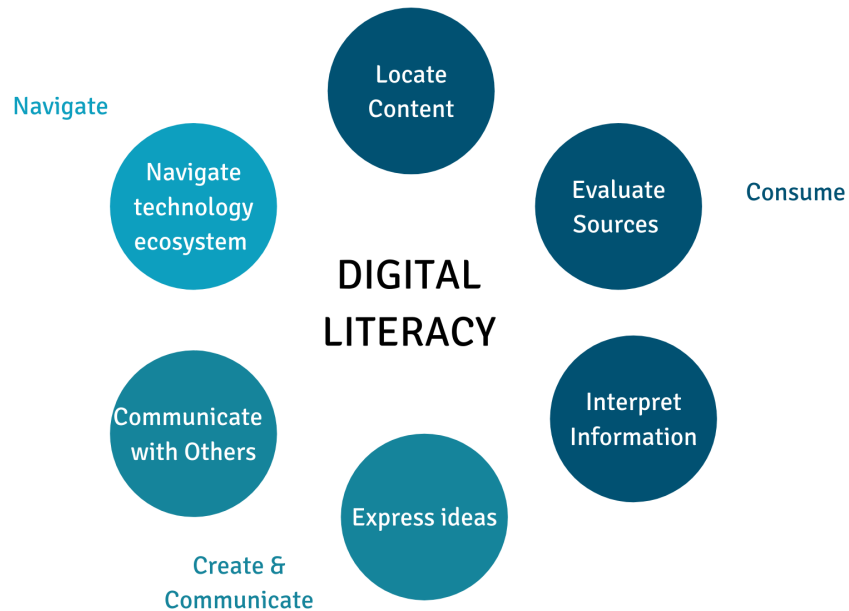
Background on Development of this Resource

GetDigitalSkills.org

Every day, our world evolves as digital technology shifts the sand beneath our feet. We become increasingly mobile, increasingly connected, and increasingly global. More than ever, global citizens have opportunities to be civically engaged in solving problems and creating change. Technology has also changed the way we get and share information, communicate with others, and understand the world, making digital literacy paramount to full participation in our global society. The roots of digital literacy are also not brand new. The underlying skills of communication, evaluation, expression, interpretation, research, and critical thinking are as old as education. What is different is the digital context, which is both exciting and daunting. Most information available throughout history is now available online but increasingly so is misinformation.

There are many cross-cutting frameworks and definitions related to digital literacy. For example, [the DQ Framework](#) provides a comprehensive overview. The National Center for Teacher English (NCTE) provides this [definition](#). And, there are elements throughout the [ISTE Standards for Students](#), including an expectation that *digital citizens* embody “the rights, responsibilities and opportunities of living, learning and working in an interconnected digital world, and they act and model in ways that are safe, legal and ethical” (2016). Digital citizens must also be inclusive, informed, engaged, balanced, and alert (DigCitCommit, n.d.). Additionally, the ISTE Standards reinforce concepts of agency, competency, critical thinking, evaluation, computational and algorithmic understanding, ethics, and a future-forward, global perspective that are embedded in the project questionnaire and learning resources.

Digital citizens become empowered when they possess a variety of skills, often referred to as digital literacy. For purposes of this project, we focus on the aspect of **digital literacy** as *the knowledge of, and the ability to use digital technologies to locate information; evaluate information; synthesize, create, and communicate information; and understand the human and technological complexities of a digital media landscape*. Being digitally literate means having the skills to be an informed consumer, critical thinker, and creator in the digital world, and requires an ability to continuously learn and grow alongside technological developments. Our hope is that continuously developing the knowledge and skills of digital literacy will mutually reinforce mindsets and perspectives that are more curious, global, inclusive, empathetic, and sensitive to well-being. We have organized the questionnaire and resources into three major skill categories -- navigate, consume, and create & communicate -- with additional detail as represented in this diagram.



Underlying the diagram is a belief that Digitally Literate Citizens must be able to:

Navigate

- Understand the algorithms that influence our personal digital landscape (algorithmic literacy)
- Understand the digital trail we create as technology users
- Understand interconnected data systems that impact our privacy (IoT)

Consume

- Locate relevant content
- Analyze sources of digital information
- Interpret meaning from various media sources that represent multiple perspectives

Create & Communicate

- Express ideas that reveal one's own and others' viewpoints
- Share information and ideas; seek and share diverse perspectives to broaden understanding
- Collaborate and network