

## DIGITAL LITERACY AWARENESS AMONG STUDENTS

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### Abstract

The aim of this research is to develop the awareness of digital literacy among students. This paper mention about the ways to develop the knowledge performance towards students by practicing a good skills to deal with the appropriate digital tools and knowing variety types of digital tools which can be use in digital literacy among students.

**Keywords:** Digital Literacy, digital tools.

### INTRODUCTION

In dealing with the rising of the technologies, students need to be encouraged and ready to obtain lifelong knowledge and skills in the learning environment. The understanding of the concept of digital literacy has to go through long-term development and its current appearance is characterized by complexity and technology skills but also cognitive and attitudinal components of behavior. (Reynolds, 2008 ; Reynolds, 2016) notes that definitions of digital literacy are often skills, and practically in uses of related technologies, thus tethering them to a given historical moment in time. The definition frequently used is a confident and important use of ICT for work, leisure, learning and communication (InfoNet, 2012; Hall, Nix & Baker, 2013)

Digital literacy is not a new strategy for a student to gain the information and knowledge needed. The capability to use the technology to allow us to right to use the materials is a key aspect of digital literacy. As a starting point, the obvious aspect of digital literacy is an internet. The internet is a no longer complementary tool but primary need in this era (Rahmah, 2015). Mastery of technology tools and digital skills becomes a barrier to entry and be a participation in online cultures and contexts. And this accessibility has extremely empowered all of us, students and non-student alike.

Indirectly, digital forms of information and communication has delivering and transforming what it means to work, study, research, perhaps even to think using a technology. In education, students and teacher does not escape to this transformation, and comes up the need to people who need technologies tools and admit of computer's literacy is an important competency in the 21st century. To access information, sharing information, in the different places, technologies has made people reduce their burden. Some of the traditional method and tools need to be changed to new ways by introducing them the digital literacy tools. By exposing the digital literacy tools and

method, the creativity and learning session for the student might be more creative and interesting.

## **ISSUES**

In this paper, we identify several issues regarding to the awareness of digital literacy among students. Based on the previous study, some of the limitation was occurred. The several limitations are:

- Lack of research about student applying digital literacy to completing their assignment.
- There's no variety type of digital tools been exposed to the students.
- Less of teacher in Malaysia teaching their students applying digital literacy as a teaching and learning method.

## **RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

The aim of this paper is to develop the awareness on the digital literacy among students. To achieve this aim, we identify the sub-goals:

- To determine the level of knowledge performance of students using digital literacy.
- To determine the skills needed by the student to use digital tools.
- To identify the type of digital literacy tools recommended for students.

## **RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

In this paper, we recognize several research questions related to the issues on the digital literacy awareness among students. The several research questions are:

- How do we create awareness on the digital literacy among students?
- How to develop the knowledge performance on students using digital literacy as a medium of learning?
- In what ways do we suppose develop skills using digital tools toward students for the information seeking purpose?
- What are the suitable digital literacy tools that can be introduce to the students to practicing gaining the correct information?

## **LITERATURE REVIEW AND PROPOSED FRAMEWORK**

Phenomena of digital literacy in modern era must be promoted and being spread towards the students from all ages. Thus, several aspects related to digital literacy need to be stress for the awareness of the digital literacy among students.

Knowledge performance one of the points that must be strengthened. In the 21st century, there is a new relation between knowledge and apprenticeship (Goulão & Fombona, 2012). In this field, the use of technologies is extremely important to make easy the access to knowledge. In an advance century which consists of a variety of technology made, we become aware that the knowledge acquired today is easy to be exceeded. The new age group has a different perspective about how to find and access information and also they have different perspectives towards research. They need help for information literacy (Secker, 2010; Cakmak, Özel & Yilmaz, 2013). As a teacher, we need to understand how to fit in students in learning materials so that they will meet their qualification requirements (Hall, Nix & Baker, 2013) So, the teacher roles gain another dimension. This is why distance learning, together with online teaching, based on these technological tools and pedagogical relations, has a determinant role as for an initial formation, as for a formation along life (Goulão, 2010 ; Goulão & Fombona, 2012). Rahmah (2015) stated that education and technology are inseparable. Thus, no matter what the digital literacy need to be exposing to the students who need to deal with the development of technology in the 21st century. In a way to increasing the knowledge performance using digital literacy, skills on digital technology is needed. In the local context, (Tan, Melissa, & Saw, 2010; Shariman, Razak & Noor, 2012 ) have study on the urban Malaysia youths on the online activities and writing practices. Nevertheless, the youth in Malaysia applied the skills on using the technology for social activities, gain knowledge and upgraded their writing skills through the social networking sites and entertainment site such as from blogs and personal websites. Furthermore, information literacy and ICT skills are important for students nowadays. Other than that, facts are rising of high changes in knowledge practice, for example practically in the way academic writing is usually constructed, the use of graphical, image and media to find and share the knowledge. For that reason, digital literacy extends beyond technical competence skills, such as the ability to writing, presenting, and communicate using a keyboard. Those skills related with the technology need to be delivered to the students from the early age. Despite of that, technology tools is a part of the things which can increase the knowledge performance and develop the awareness of the digital literacy among students. As society going advance, the demand for digital technologies in the classroom increases rapidly. To meet the changing and demand, iPods, iPads, and the SMARTBoards are needed into some classroom for the some country. Portable electronic touch screen devices such as the iPad and iPod are increasingly a part of technology tools in aspects of current childhood experiences including those of schooling (Kucirkova, et al., 2013; O'Mara & Laidlaw, 2011; Laidlaw & O'mara, 2015). Those tools have changing literacy instruction and the way of students learning. According to Saine (2012) teachers also claim students become more creative in their thinking. Despite that, mobile phone and web 2.0 tools for example blogs and wikis also had been a part of digital technologies. The affordances of touch screen devices recommend young and preliterate children the possibility to independently design, create and produce their own words in ways that are more easily facilitated than with tools such as paper and pencil (Kucirkova, et al., 2013; O'Mara & Laidlaw, 2011). O'Mara & Laidlaw, (2011) stated that for children who have disabilities or learning challenges, digital tools can offer new opportunities and experiences to ease of access

and creation of text, particularly those for whom the physical burdens of handwriting present particular struggle.

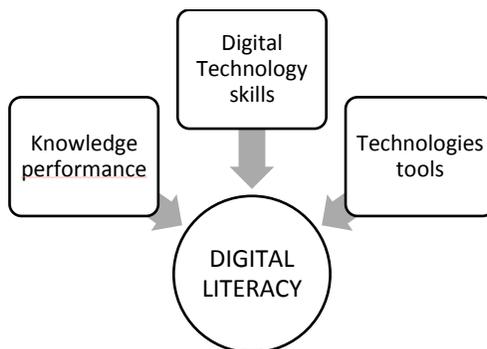


Figure 1: Proposed Framework.

Digital literacy has been defined and prepared in widely varying ways in knowledge searching purpose. Based on the research framework, there is three points need to be stress on to achieve my objective. Referring to the title itself "Awareness of digital literacy toward students", thus, students need to focus on the:

### **Knowledge performance**

The development of information science makes the creation of a variety of data from various sources to be so easy. This added with the existence of information technology that helps an organization to function properly (Baharuddin, Izhar, Mohamad & Hasnol, 2016). In modern era nowadays, knowledge and information been transfer, gain and precise using digital literacy. Digital literacy helps the student to get the knowledge fast and easy by using the advanced technology. The knowledge could be sharing by socializing too not only in classroom method. Knowledge can be practice in anywhere and anytime, for example, improvement in the communication ways, grammar, and creativity by writing in the blogs. Other than that, by using some other social media like Facebook, it also can be one of the medium for digital literacy. By doing one account for teaching, teachers, lecturer or student itself, they can shared the knowledge, complete the assignment, and spread the news easy and fast. As we know, today's life is full of gadget and no one has left behind and we supposed to use it wisely.

### **Digital technology skills**

Master in digital technology is a must in the 21st century. The advancement of technology for example computer and systems helps the student to improve the digital technology skills. For the genY, the skills to use the technologies are more compared to the genX. That will become a benefit for them. In digital literacy, students need to be talented and familiar with the system they might use. Students can develop their skill by going to the class of ICT of perhaps learning by themselves. As in the real life, kids also having they own Smartphone or tablet. But, many people didn't aware actually that is also the starting point which the skill can be developed. Other than that, communication

skill and searching skill also can be improved. By having those skills, students can improve their self and can easily bring forward their self to the organization.

### **Technology tools**

Technology nowadays has implemented many tools which can apply for digital literacy. The skills are needed to use the tools appropriately. From the past research, the tool that has been used is iPads, iPods, Smartphone, Web 2.0, podcasting and much more. All those searching tools might help students to explore and making learning more attractive and fun. Many people never realize different technology used will give different benefits. For example, by using Google earth, the student can learn to build a good vocabulary and improve their writing sentences. Other than that, one of the methods for making class and learning fun is by digital storytelling. Based on the research, some teachers stated that student is extra active and feel free to understand learning with the digital tools. As teachers, practicing digital technology as a teaching tool will enhance student commitment and created learning engagement with students. Because of that, the performance of the students is increased rapidly. It supported by Baharuddin, Saad and Hasnol (2014) that working with teacher librarians is one of the factors would improve students' enjoyment of learning. It is important in order to attract students' interest to give full attention during lesson process in the class.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

Based on the three point of framework stated above, digital literacy are preferred to use for students to apply in the real life for knowledge seeking purpose. Some ideas for classroom-ness are possible since it can be a good impact for the students and a good technologies tool provided. The online surfing, social media might increase the knowledge practice and build a good strength in terms of communication, delivering a good information and practicing a real information seeking method without boring. From the internet-based task, students can be more active because of the video, animation and sound provided. For example, students can learn the correct pronunciation and learn a new language through online. Moreover, Digital technology also provides good search engines which student can explore, like Google translator, wikis, online dictionaries and more. However, to fully utilize the digital literacy, the student must master the technology skills. Students must put an effort to explore the digital content sites to gain information for a specific purpose. Students need to know the right way to use the technology, such as skills of writing, knowing a little bit about the interface search engine, ways to use the systems and using the social media. Thus, this study has highlighted the on-going and growing concern for students to aware about the digital literacy which can less your burden for knowledge seeking approach and the new technologies learning method.

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