

THE AWARENESS OF DIGITAL LITERACY AMONG OUR SOCIETY

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Abstract

The objective of this research is to identify the awareness of the digital literacy among our society, especially for those who still in learning process. This research also discusses about the importance of digital literacy. Issued that may them faced also has been discusses in this paper. The relationships between awareness and digital literacy and the contribution of both concepts in improving student's process in learning were also highlighted.

Keywords: Digital literacy, society, importance, awareness

INTRODUCTION

In this new era, information is not only we can find on textbook or we called as in printed material, but also in digital format. As we can see, society nowadays likely search information using technologies where by they can get it on time and safe their time. Talking about using technologies to locate information, many people didn't aware of digital literacy. What is digital literacy? Digital literacy is the ability to use information and communication technologies to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information, requiring both cognitive and technical skills. It is also can be define as involves finding, using and spreading the information in a digital world. Mark Surman, Executive Director of the Mozilla Foundation, in an interview for the November 2013 editorial in The Telegraph said that digital literacy is as important as reading, writing, arithmetic and other traditional disciplines.

Especially for student, they need to aware of digital literacy to make sure that they are not leaving behind. Even since they are in primary school, teachers need to raise awareness of the importance of digital literacy within the education. According to M. Host'ovecky (2012), computer and other information technologies have a very important place in the learning and teaching process. Computers are also an integral part of student's everyday life outside of school and within school, they are used in writing homework or essays, within every school subject, not only in informatics. On top of that, I would like to state that student these days are more capable in searching information rather than years ago when there's less convenience and also lack of skills in finding right information. However, to bring up this thing up in early stage such as in primary school is challenging whereby teachers need to set their mind to connected to technologies in order to seek for information. Technology also was viewed as a way to improve student's access to instruction and instructors.

ISSUES

In this paper, we can highlight some of critical issues about awareness of digital literacy among our society. To completely change their mind about digital literacy is also one of the biggest challenge that educators need to solve. But first, educators themselves need to understand that technology transforms learning and the conditions for learning. These are some of issues that has been rise up in order to put awareness among our society:

- Require internet connection in order to make their job easier to collect data that user want
- Learning environments and educational framework
- Special teacher trainers

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

Based on all of the points that has been stated, we already identify the objectives:

- To give awareness to the society about digital literacy.
- To inform the importance of the digital literacy.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

These research questions have been considered in order to guide this study:

- What are the way to give them awareness.
- How to inform the importance of digital literacy.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND PROPOSED FRAMEWORK

Awareness to the society about digital literacy

At first, the society themselves need to always aware to things that happen in technology world to make sure that they can involve themselves in, to make sure that they can walk along with the information that always changing and also to make sure that they can adapt to the digital. Basically, digital literacy train us to be alert with surround us. What is changing, what is adding and so much more that happen in information management world. To be aware about digital literacy is a good thing where by we can step one step ahead from anyone else. To be surrounded by technology, there is no hesitation of its massive possible in the most different parts of movement and of its impact on the economy, the labor market, in education and at leisure, give a powerful tool to sequentially provide better quality of life for our society (Cost et al., 2015). In this matter of time, we need to compete with everyone to make sure that we are ahead from anybody else, and in this century everyone or any country need to be on top to make sure that we are compatible. As (Echenique et. al., 2015) stated in this scope of educational landscape, many users enter further and higher education without the skills they need to apply digital technology to education. Also, extending and improve digital competence is and essential component in the development of

employable graduates. Since 90% of new jobs will require an excellent digital skills, those lack of ICT skills be at disadvantages stage in the labor market and have less access to information. This new era, not only in education, but to move on into work life, we need the latest ICT skills to make us get the job and make us a step ahead from anyone else. That is going to happen if we as the learners aware of digital literacy. To aware of digital literacy is not that hard that will cost us a lot of money. We just need to always up to date to everything that happen around us.

When we start to alert of this new information tools, it will be a lot more easier in retrieving any kind of material, any kind of data at anytime. Like we just said before this, the educators or professionals need to take the first step to make it happen. They need to be the master for the new comers, the new learners, the new users, or we can say as the primary users. According to (Fidalgo, 2016), teachers themselves need to acquire new technological skills and competencies although the adoption of technology in classrooms has faced several challenges, many of these related to the traditional perspectives of learning scope. Besides these challenges, these educators generally recognized the positive aspects of ICT specially those related to accessing and managing information. But also, teachers also need to be able to support student's development of 21st century skills. These skills also include for example, critical thinking, problem solving and collaboration. For the collaboration, the educators maybe can get help from library. As we know that library has many material, many sources, despite from that, they also have the tools, or we call as communication tools. Educators need to have collaboration with them in order to make the users more alert and interested with what digital literacy prepared for them. In the first step staff at non-formal learning places like libraries will be trained for the use of ICT in their daily work with hard-to-reach target groups. They will gain competences in how to motivate socially disadvantaged clients to learn with the help of ICT and social media and they will be supported in developing their own strategies to involve socially disadvantaged adults in non-formal learning (Bersmann & Croll, 2013).

Importance of the digital literacy

The user cannot just simply know digital literacy but didn't know what are the importance they can get from it. Various of benefit when you know how to use digital literacy in a right way. Why we said so? Because nowadays, it is rarely we see someone will go to library and ask librarian for a material that they seek. They will simplify search it on social network. But, they may not know that, in social network they have thousand or maybe billion of websites that available. The question is, is it authorized? Is it up to date? Is it the data that we really need? This is also where the educator's roles really needed. They need to identify what method that they should use to inform the society the importance of the digital literacy. The educators or the master should find their own skills in order to make the users understand and apply when they need in seeking information. It may takes time, but in the end the result is extraordinary excellent when the users gives positive feedback. In the end of it, the educators maybe will get an image for it, or maybe some reward from their own organization. The skills nowadays is very important, just like rice is very important to people in order to get full.

When we don't have the skill, there's maybe the get job or to get employed is very thick decision. (Argentin, 2014) Digital skills are important for labor market outcomes, as they provide an increasingly critical kind of labor input. It is not clear, however, if digital skills also contribute to the acquisition of more traditional academic skills. Skills itself will not comes by just like that, we as a human being need to work, need to think to get the result. Same as the educators, they will find the method. After they did that, they will reveal the importance of the digital literacy, just like we know that nowadays it is all about digital, online, technology to get connected. As (Al-Qallaf & Al-Mutairi, 2016) state the implications for educators and students that will help them in order to achieve their goals in digital literacy. There is a need for policymaking that encompasses several dimensions such as:

- implementing a unified technology plan
- encouraging teacher creativity and motivation by providing incentives,
recognising achievements and soliciting teacher and student input
- adopting blended learning methods
- applying awareness-raising activities (e.g. systematic notification of change in educational policies and procedures)

For another sources that we agreed are have said ICT teacher can motivate students, curriculum demonstrate, demonstration induce problematic situation. The advantage of using these technologies are: speed, accuracy, operability, easy to operate. In addition, ICT can not only listen and inform, but also to approximate various technical knowledge in addition to their pupils can directly manipulate (Host'ovecký, 2012). It is why we need to start since from primary schools. There is the place when the first information that they get. When the educators teach them since young, they will process it more better and excellent. They will grow up with the technology that will help them in seeking information in an accurate way. They will carry out what they learn from first level to another level which is get higher. Besides, when users using ICT to connect with information, they will get it pleasure and variety that keep students engaged and motivated. But not to forget, when they feel pleasure and with that automatically there will be relationships and motivation that in turn support long lasting engagement and learning. Somehow when they know about the importance of it, their eye and brain will be more open and they will think it wisely why digital literacy is important and what are they going to do with digital literacy.

There are 2 types of variables, independent and dependent. Independent variable is the main point of the research or we can define it as is to manipulated to determine the value of the dependent variable.

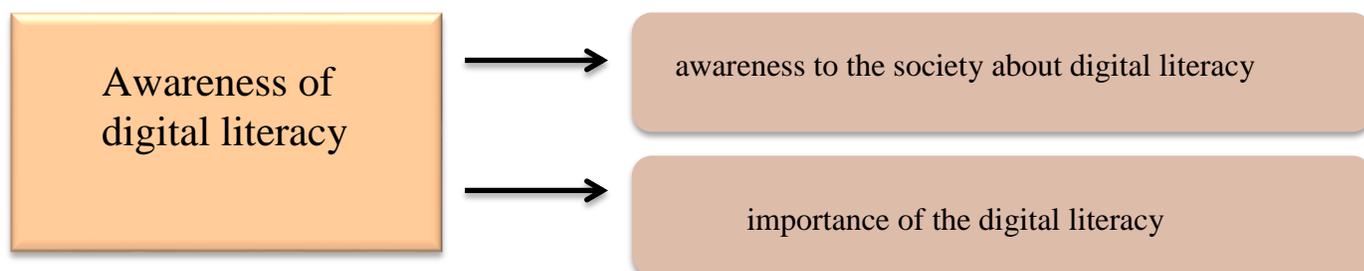


Figure 1: Proposed theoretical framework

After finish analyze literature review, we manage to highlight variables of this research. Meanwhile, dependent variable is the sub-topic or the value that depends upon independent variable. In literature review process, we get to design our own framework which is awareness of digital literacy among our society. As we can see at this figure, we already identify the outcome of this paper. Two independent variables that we get is to awareness to the society about digital literacy and also to inform the importance of the digital literacy. All these 2 independent that we manage to get are the implication of the dependent variable which is awareness of digital literacy.

Analysis Review

Based on articles that we have been reviewing, we can conclude that most of the articles been talk about digital literacy widely. Based on these articles, we have identify two sub topics. The first one is the awareness of the digital literacy. We had review several articles that related with awareness. Here, we can say that awareness is a very critical issue. Still now, some people out there is still have no clue about digital literacy. Digital literacy is a new kind of tools that one day will be the most famous tools that researchers, educators, users, or we can say that society still didn't aware with digital literacy. Even though digital literacy still new, but we cannot make it as an excuse. As a user, we should know and we should aware of tools that can help us retrieving information. And don't forget, it helps us save a lot of times. According (Pun, 2015) they draw several digital projects that explores how librarians can creatively utilise resources or method that they can get or method that they been identify themselves to teach new literacy skills such as data analysis and data management. Secondly, to inform the importance of digital literacy. There is so many importance and benefit you can get in digital literacy. You can site your reference in correct way. You also have the skills where you can manage your data management so well. By studying this also, you also will be able to have one skills that not everyone has. You has your own method in

designing your data in your way. For example, this article (frydenberg & And one, 2016) said that digital literacy as the ability or tools to apply the technology so effectively, include these:

- Use technology as a tool to research, organise, evaluate and communicate information
- Use digital technologies (computers, PDAs, media players, GPS, etc.), communication tools/networking tools and social networks appropriately to access, manage, evaluate and create information to successfully function in a knowledge economy
- Apply a fundamental understanding of the legal issues surrounding the access and use of information technologies.

However, in our research we found that there are still some of the people cannot adapt with the digital literacy environment. This is maybe because lack of communication is the main reason. Educators and users should create relationships between them to make sure that they can just understand each other needs. But we think that educators or professional should step one step ahead first than users. Because educators know about the up to date issues, the latest tools and everything that related with information management. But if we see the way users eyes, they didn't aware much, they didn't know much about tools that can make their work easier than before. We agreed that information literacy can helps users in retrieving information and to use it, but if we talked about latest tools, about everything latest in helping them, they didn't know much, they lack of skills in finding those things. In our sight, we didn't think that it is their fault. It is usual if the users didn't know about something, because it is why references service was provided, it is to help student in their studies, in their research. Last, after we go through these articles, we can say that in some point we didn't agree as much as they said. Maybe because they way we think about digital literacy is different by our understanding.

CONCLUSIONS

In learning, there is no pit stop. It will never find ending because in managing information, they will always find a tools to make their job in retrieving data easily. Not even for the educators, but also for users that always 'thirsty' in seeking data. For educators, they should always conduct the learners in either information literacy or digital literacy. By learning throughout digital literacy, they not just will know about the new tools, but they will also discover skills that just people learn about digital literacy will know. Despite from that, for educators they will always seek opportunities in how to make the users understand and able to use in without professional conduct them. They maybe can collaborate with librarians which we can see as the perfect party to work with in achieving this goal, because librarians know the best for the users because their job is be with the users whenever they need them in searching information. Last word for us, seek information with latest tools, with the right communication tools, they end up

will get the best result among the best. That is because they keep on going use the latest and the most authorize by organization that is master about information.

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