

DIGITAL LITERACY AND ITS ROLE IN MODERN CLASSROOMS

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Abstract: *This article explores the role and significance of digital literacy in today's modern classrooms and teaching processes. As digital transformation accelerates across all sectors, understanding the extent of digital literacy among both teachers and students—and how it is applied within classrooms—has become increasingly important.*

Key words: *digital literacy, collaboration, online platforms, multimedia resources, creativity, digital ethics, cyberbullying.*

The article analyzes the core components of digital literacy, their relevance in education, and how these elements can be effectively utilized in the classroom environment. Additionally, it discusses the challenges that may arise during implementation and offers potential solutions. It also evaluates the level of preparedness of both teachers and students for integrating digital literacy into teaching and learning.

As is widely recognized, the past decade has seen technology drive profound changes across all areas of life, including education. These innovations aim to enhance human activity by introducing ease and efficiency. Today's modern classrooms go far beyond traditional blackboards and textbooks, incorporating digital technologies, multimedia resources, and online platforms to create dynamic, enriched learning environments. In this context, digital literacy—which includes the ability to access, download, edit, interpret, and present information using digital tools—has become an essential competency for both teachers and students.

This paper is dedicated to exploring digital literacy in modern classrooms. It outlines the theoretical foundations of digital literacy, examines how to improve its integration into teaching, and investigates practical solutions to the challenges faced by educators and learners alike.

Integrating technology and innovation into any system or sector leads to significant growth and development. Fields that fail to adapt to such advancements risk falling behind. In education, the concept of digital literacy has emerged as a vital element, requiring users to possess computer literacy skills. According to the European Commission, digital literacy includes information literacy, communication, digital content creation, online safety, and problem-solving in digital environments. UNESCO also emphasizes digital citizenship as a core component of digital literacy. In the context of education, these competencies support critical thinking, collaboration, and creativity.

A prominent example of such a framework in education is the DigComp model developed by the European Commission and implemented by Spain's INTEF (Instituto Nacional de Tecnologías Educativas y de Formación del Profesorado). This model outlines not only digital literacy but also emphasizes responsible and safe use of information, collaboration, creativity, and problem-solving skills. Within the DigComp model,

information literacy involves searching, locating, selecting, analyzing, and evaluating information. During lessons, teachers must be able to identify reliable sources and present the information in an understandable and engaging format for students. The accuracy and transparency of information are crucial in this process.

However, several challenges persist. The abundance of sources increases the risk of encountering fake news and manipulative content. To address this, teachers should receive training in media literacy, learn to resist media influence, and be introduced to fact-checking tools (such as Snopes or FactCheck.org). It is also essential to teach students methods for analyzing information critically.

Moreover, digital technologies enhance communication, information sharing, and collaboration. Tools such as Google Docs, Zoom, and Google Meet have become essential in supporting classroom interactions. For example, Google Docs enables multiple students to simultaneously create and share documents, fostering collaborative work. Zoom and Google Meet allow for effective online teaching regardless of physical distance. Nevertheless, issues such as cyberbullying and inappropriate online behavior sometimes arise due to a lack of digital ethics. These problems can be mitigated by incorporating digital ethics into the curriculum, promoting respectful online communication, and involving students in virtual group projects.

The multifunctionality of digital technologies also supports digital content creation, such as producing text, audio, graphics, and code. Students often use platforms like Canva and PowerPoint to prepare visually rich and informative presentations. Tools like Screencast allow for the creation of video lessons, while programming environments such as Scratch and Python support the development of coding skills. Encouraging the use of open-source platforms and involving students in creative competitions can offer practical solutions to the lack of software and hardware in schools.

A critical focus when using digital technologies is ensuring safety and the ability to analyze potential problems. The increasing prevalence of data breaches and cyberattacks highlights the need for digital awareness and competence. Both teachers and students must be equipped to use technology responsibly. Furthermore, students should be encouraged to take an active role in solving problems, thereby improving their decision-making and analytical skills. Proactive efforts in this direction can help prevent future issues before they emerge.

The competencies outlined in the DigComp model have become an integral part of modern education. Beyond simply using digital tools, they foster independent thinking, collaboration, safe digital practices, and creative solutions. It is essential that these competencies be fully integrated into national education policies and curricula to ensure their widespread adoption.

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