

Reading Resource Library Digital Literacy Instructor Resource Guide

The [Reading Resource Library](#) is a tool created for educators to share with learners and is filled with topically relevant, educational, and captivating books for readers of all ages and levels.

- The books are sorted into sixteen topics that can be explored with learners and their families.
- Books in all collections span different reading levels, including books for children and families to read together.
- Each text set shares book summaries and additional information, such as book trailers and links to reviews.
- Each topic has a general Resource Guide to support engagement with the texts.

Consider using these texts from the Reading Resource Library to support themes and ideas about digital literacy and connecting to technology (social media use):

Book Title	Author	Collection and Topic
<i>Putting Peace First: 7 Commitments to Change the World</i>	Eric David Dawson	Collection One: Activism
<i>Hoot</i>	Carl Hiaasen	Collection One: Activism
<i>Tyler Johnson Was Here</i>	Jay Coles	Collection One: Activism
<i>Dear Evan Hansen</i>	Val Emmich	Collection One: Inspiring Stories
<i>Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You</i>	Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi	Collection Three: Diverse America
<i>Piecing Me Together</i>	Renee Watson	Collection Three: Family and Community
<i>How It Went Down</i>	Kekla Magoon	Collection Four: Realistic Fiction

Overall Planning Suggestions

- Consider desired learner outcomes, key vocabulary terms, incorporating relevant material based on learner's interest, and any differentiation and modifications needs.
- Materials were developed to allow for instructor customization based on their program's standards and learning objectives. Instructors should modify and format lessons, activities, and assessments (formative and summative) based on the needs of their learners and desired outcomes.
- Consider learners' content knowledge and pre-assess or consider a knowledge inventory before exploring this topic.
- Review resources for working with adult learners:
 - [Adult Learning Theory](#)
 - [Adult Learner Strategies](#)
 - [Authentic Audiences & Purposes](#)
 - [Cultural & Life Experiences Connections](#)
 - [Learner Variability](#)
- To plan a more detailed lesson or unit, view our [Reading Resource Library Instructor Planning Materials](#).

What is Digital Literacy?

Digital literacy involves a [variety](#) of skills and competencies. These include the basic skills needed to operate smartphones, computers, and other technological devices. It also involves navigational skills to move within and between a range of software programs and digital applications, such as word processing software, email and social media, online games, and search engines.

Having these skills enables adults to accomplish personal and professional tasks. It also helps them to independently problem-solve (digital resilience) if they run into roadblocks along the way. Digital literacy has a direct impact on many aspects of people's lives, from finding possible job opportunities to managing a household to supporting family members in their health, educational endeavors, or their own journeys using technology.

Authentic Application

As you begin to work with learners, be mindful of barriers they may face in their own digital literacy. Explore the term with them and support them in making connections to their own lives. You may want to have a whole group

discussion– consider a think-pair-share, or gallery walk activity. Consider these questions and develop additional questions based on your learner needs:

- What does digital literacy mean to you?
- Why is it important to understand digital terms and know how to navigate within a digital space (internet, online learning platform, social media)?
- What concerns you about using technology? What is exciting about using technology?
- What do you think digital citizenship means? Do you think everything on the internet is true?
- Share what you feel are the top barriers in your own development of digital literacy (you may want to prompt topics, such as, accessing the internet, being able to connect to the internet, having digital devices within the home, understanding online learning for themselves or their children)

After this discussion and as you plan your activities, consider how you can provide authentic applications using your learners' newly gained knowledge. Be sure to engage your learners in customizing their own learning path with digital literacy.

- Do they want to know how to navigate a website or application?
- Do they want to know how to search the internet for information and then review information for reliability and accuracy?
- Do they want to know how to text or email with family members? Or post a picture to social media?
- Do they need support communicating with their child's school or accessing an online learning platform?
- Do they need to learn how to navigate an employment site?

Vocabulary – Key Terms to Explore

To help learners better understand and explore digital literacy, pre-teach a few key vocabulary words. There are several key words to explore. This is a short list to choose from:

- Internet Etiquette
- Cybersecurity
- Internet Search
- Online
- Browser

- Gigabyte
- Internet
- Intranet
- Digital Citizenship
- Reliable
- Sources
- Antivirus
- Browsing
- Hacker

Vocabulary activities could include:

- **Frayer Models:** Have learners write the vocabulary term in the middle of four boxes. Then, ask them to write the definition, the word in a sentence, synonyms and antonyms, and a visual representation of the word in one of the boxes. (Each box will be its own category).
- **Semantic Mapping:** Ask learners to create a semantic map showing the relationship between the words (after you have taught them the definitions and given them some context). Semantic maps can be created online or by hand in personal notebooks. They are a great way for learners to visualize and engage in conceptual thinking!
- **Vocabulary Notebooks:** Ask learners to keep a notebook, or section in their writing notebook to structure, organize, and make note of important vocabulary. By doing so, this helps build learners' memory and comprehension skills. Words can be entered by categories, unit topics, pairs, or ways of their choosing to best support their learning and vocabulary acquisition.
- **Concept Cubes:** Ask learners to create a six-sided cube that they can roll like a dice. Each side of the cube will have a different vocabulary activity for learners to do that will engage them in the use and acquisition of their words. Activities may include: draw a picture of your favorite vocabulary word, use the vocabulary word in a sentence, put your vocabulary words into categories, or write a story using all of your vocabulary words.

Integrating Digital Literacy into Your Classroom

Create content-based lessons and activities to help learners acquire content knowledge (digital literacy) while improving reading and literacy skills. Content-based instruction enhances students' learning by allowing learners to explore relevant content and make connections to their own lives. Consider the following lessons and activities:

- **[Social Media](#)**: This lesson from LINCS will help your learners develop an awareness about the use of social media platforms.
- **[Digital Literacy in the Workplace](#)**: This lesson from LINCS will help your learners develop critical skills required to be successful in the workplace.
- **[Important Safety Signs](#)**: This lesson from LINCS will take your learners through the use of workplace skills such as the use of Google Docs, email, and laptops and Chromebooks.
- **[Cultural Stereotypes Online](#)**: This lesson from LINCS will help your learners understand the use of a variety of digital tools, analyze social media platforms, and collaborate with each other.
- **[Folk Stories](#)**: This lesson from LINCS will lead your learners through research about their own cultural identify
- **[Digital Literacy](#)**: This lesson from Common Sense Media will take your learners though digital literacy skills with a target audience in mind. Learners will collaborate with each other, using a TED Talk as the foundation, to teach each other about digital literacy. This is a teacher-created lesson.
- **[Digital Literacy Lessons](#)**: This website, sponsored by Learning for Justice, will take you to twenty-eight lessons ranging in complexity for learners of all different levels focused on digital literacy lessons in the classroom environment.
- **[Expanding Literacy: Bringing Digital Storytelling into Your Classroom](#)**: This resource book is designed for K-12 but shares meaningful ideas on textual literacy and digital literacy. It offers project-based ideas for digital storytelling with learners.

Resources for Educators

- **[Promoting Digital Literacy for Adult Learners: A Resource Guide](#)**: This guide was developed by the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy and Digital Promise to support educators, tutors, and mentors who are working with adult learners on building digital literacy skills. The guide, which was peer reviewed by 16 adult literacy experts and corporate partners, is grounded in adult learning theory and includes practical approaches for working with adult learners.
- **[DigitalLearn.org](#)**: DigitalLearn.org is the Public Library Association's (PLA) online hub for digital literacy support and training.
- **[GCFGlobal.org](#)**: GCFGlobal.org is an adult learning website. They have a **[large listing of available courses](#)**, ranging from basics to specific software applications. Learners can get a certificate of completion.

Courses can be viewed on smartphones and kindle devices. They have partnered with the [YouTube Learning channel](#), [Google's Digital Garage platform](#), and [Skillshare](#). They have also developed their own content.

- [Northstar Digital Literacy](#): Northstar Digital Literacy provides online interactive assessments and learning modules. Curriculum and learning support is offered for a variety of topics.
- [National Skills Coalition Digital Equity Act Fact Sheet](#): Digital Equity is a condition in which all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy, and economy. Digital equity is necessary for civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services. To learn more about the Digital Equity Act, explore the fact sheet.
- [Using the PIAAC Framework for Problem Solving in Technology-Rich Environments to Guide Instruction: An Introduction for Adult Educators](#): This report provides a guide for adult educators on how to teach within the digital literacy domain and is based on PIAAC digital standards.