

Types of Literacy¹

Type of Literacy	Brief Definition & Description
Media Literacy	Media Literacy is the ability to access, analyze, evaluate, & produce communication in a variety of forms. In essence, a media literate person can <u>think critically</u> about what they see, hear, and read in books, newspapers, magazines, television, radio, movies, music, advertising, video games, the Internet, and new emerging technology. <i>Kaiser Family Foundation</i>
Computer Literacy	The ability to <u>use</u> a computer and its software to accomplish <u>practical</u> tasks. <i>National Forum on Information Literacy</i>
Digital Literacy	Digital literacy is more than just the technical ability to operate digital devices properly; it comprises a variety of <u>cognitive skills</u> that are utilized in <u>executing tasks</u> in digital environments, such as browsing the Internet, deciphering user interfaces, working with databases, and chatting in chat rooms. <i>Eshet-Alkali & Amichai-Hamburger</i>
Information Literacy	Information Literacy is defined as the ability to know <u>when there is a need for information</u> , to be able to identify, locate, evaluate, and effectively use that information for the issue or problem at hand. <i>National Forum on Information Literacy</i>
Technology Literacy	Technology literacy is the ability to <u>responsibly use appropriate technology</u> to communicate, solve problems, and access, manage, integrate, evaluate, and create information to improve learning in all subject areas and to acquire lifelong knowledge and skills in the 21st century. <i>State Educational Technology Directors Association</i>

¹Adapted from "Media Literacy - Definition Matrix" Leadership Summit Toolkit 2007