http://www.milliondollarhomepage.com/

The Digital Stramash

Helping Librarians Make Sense of the Digital Landscape

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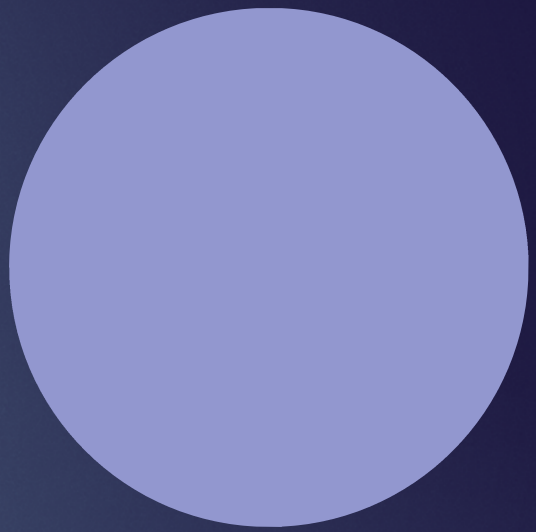
stramash

(strəˈmæʃ) Scottish

noun

- **An uproar; tumult.**



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Why a ‘stramash’?

- **Firstly, we can’t even agree what digital literacy is**

Definitions of digital literacy

- “those capabilities which fit an individual for living, learning and working in a digital society: for example, the skills to use digital tools to undertake academic research, writing and critical thinking; as part of personal development planning; and as a way of showcasing achievements”

(JISC, 2011)

- “the ability to effectively and critically navigate, evaluate and create information using a range of digital technologies”

(Wikipedia)

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https://resourced.prometheanworld.com/digital-literacy-classroom-important/

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https://www.dqinstitute.org/what-is-dq/

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Definitions of digital literacy

Digital Literacy =

digital tool knowledge

+

critical thinking

+

social engagement

(Tabetha Newman, from a 2009 presentation 'Digital Literacy literature review: from terminology to action')

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Why a ‘stramash’?

- We can’t agree what digital literacy is
- We can’t agree what we should call it
- We can’t agree who should be responsible for it
- We don’t know what a digitally literate person looks like
- Even a digitally-literate person doesn’t tend to know they are digitally literate

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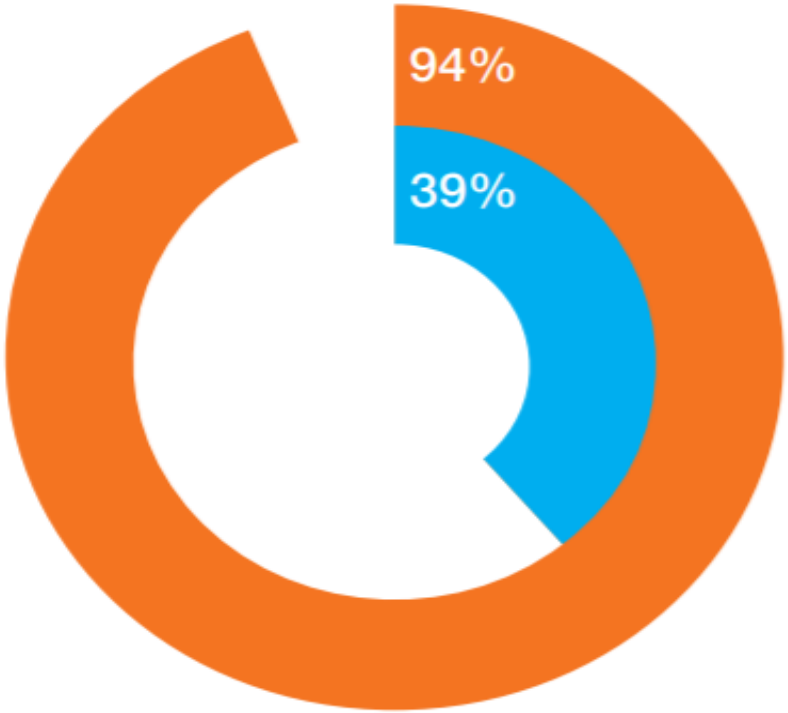


Austria

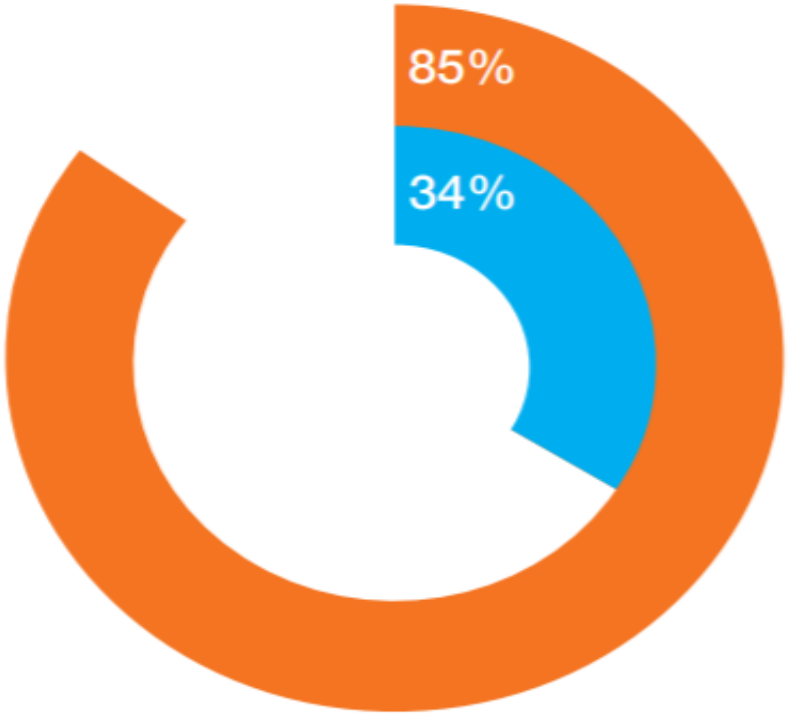
General Digital Skills

Actual Skills

Self Assessed Skills

Source: OCG, Austria

Figure 1. Self-assessment vs. actual general computer skills. Results from the study carried out in Austria, OCG.



Switzerland

Using the Internet and Email

Actual Skills

Self Assessed Skills

Source: ECDL Switzerland

Figure 2. Self-assessment vs. actual use of the internet and email. Results from the study carried out in Switzerland, ECDL Switzerland AG.

http://ecdl.org/media/perception__reality_report_-_ecdl_foundation_-_2018_1.pdf

So why are we bothering?

- **We understand it to be important**

"We will not be able to achieve a liberating, collective intelligence until we can achieve a collective digital literacy, and we have now, more than ever, perhaps, the opportunity and the technologies to assist us in the human project of shaping, creating, authoring and developing ourselves as the formers of our own culture. To this end, we must create the conditions for people to become wise in their own way."

- Poore, M. (2011). Digital Literacy: Human Flourishing and Collective Intelligence in a Knowledge Society. *Australian Journal of Language and Literacy, 19 (2),*20-26.

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The practical value of Digital Literacy?

- To get a job
- To interact meaningfully with others
- To make the right choices
- To be safe online
- To become a global citizen

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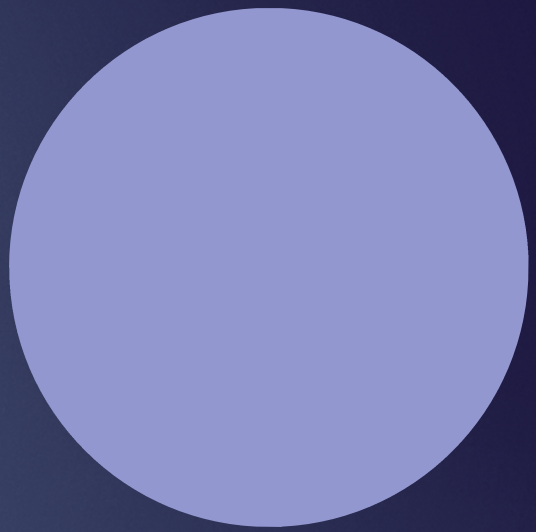
What are the drivers for Digital Literacy?

- Drivers from above
  - Employers
  - Professional bodies



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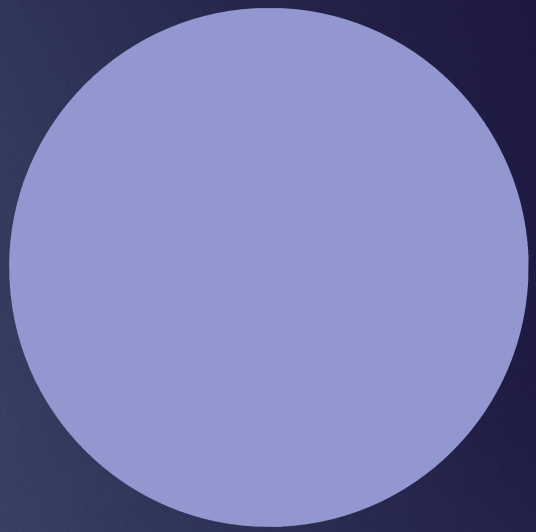
What are the drivers for Digital Literacy?

- Drivers from below
  - Schools
  - Children & young people



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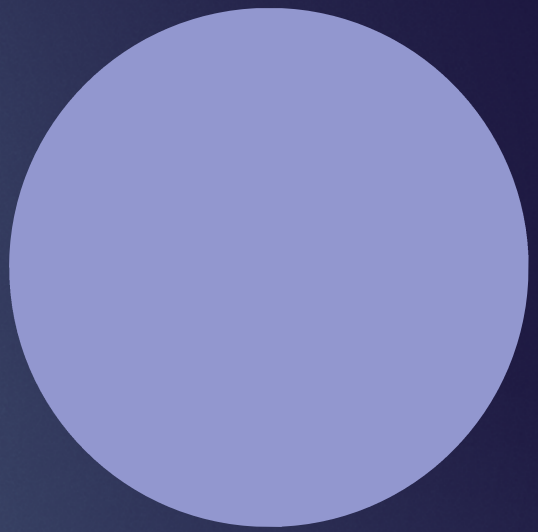
What are the drivers for Digital Literacy?

- Drivers from within
  - Pedagogies
  - ‘Brand’



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A word from Victor Hugo

- One cannot resist an idea whose time has come
- No one can resist an idea whose time has come
- Nothing is stronger than an idea whose time has come
- Armies cannot stop an idea whose time has come
- No army can stop an idea whose time has come
- Nothing is as powerful as an idea whose time has come
- There is one thing stronger than all the armies in the world, and that is an idea whose time has come
- More powerful than the might of all the armies on Earth is an idea whose time has come
- An invasion of armies can be resisted; an invasion of ideas cannot be resisted

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Victor_Hugo_by_%C3%89tienne_Carjat_1876_-_full.jpgwww.nfer.ac.uk/publications/FUTL06/FUTL06.pdf

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How do we know when an idea's time has come?

By UK government - https://civilservicelocal.blog.gov.uk/2015/02/26/learning-about-the-workings-of-parliament/, OGL 3, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=61679038

Scottish children in a digital world

- **Question to 8-11 year-olds – *What digital technology do you use?***

- **Amazon Fire Stick**
- **Apple Mac computer**
- **Apple watch**
- **Audio Books**
- **Computer** (PC)
- **Digital camera**
- **Drone – Quad Copter**
- **Nintendo DS**
- **Go Pro camera**
- **I-Pads and other tablets**
- **I-Pod shuffle**
- **Kindle**
- **Laptops**
- **LeapPad**
- **Mobile phones** (including smart phones)
- **MP3 Player**
- **Nintendo 3DS XL**
- **Notebooks**
- **Play Station**
- **Raspberry Pi**
- **Sky Box**
- **Smart Board** (at school)
- **SMART Table** (at school)
- **Smart watch**
- **TV** (including smart TV)
- **Various tablet computers**
- **Nintendo Wii**
- **X-box** (inc X-box live)
- **YouView**

http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00495173.pdf

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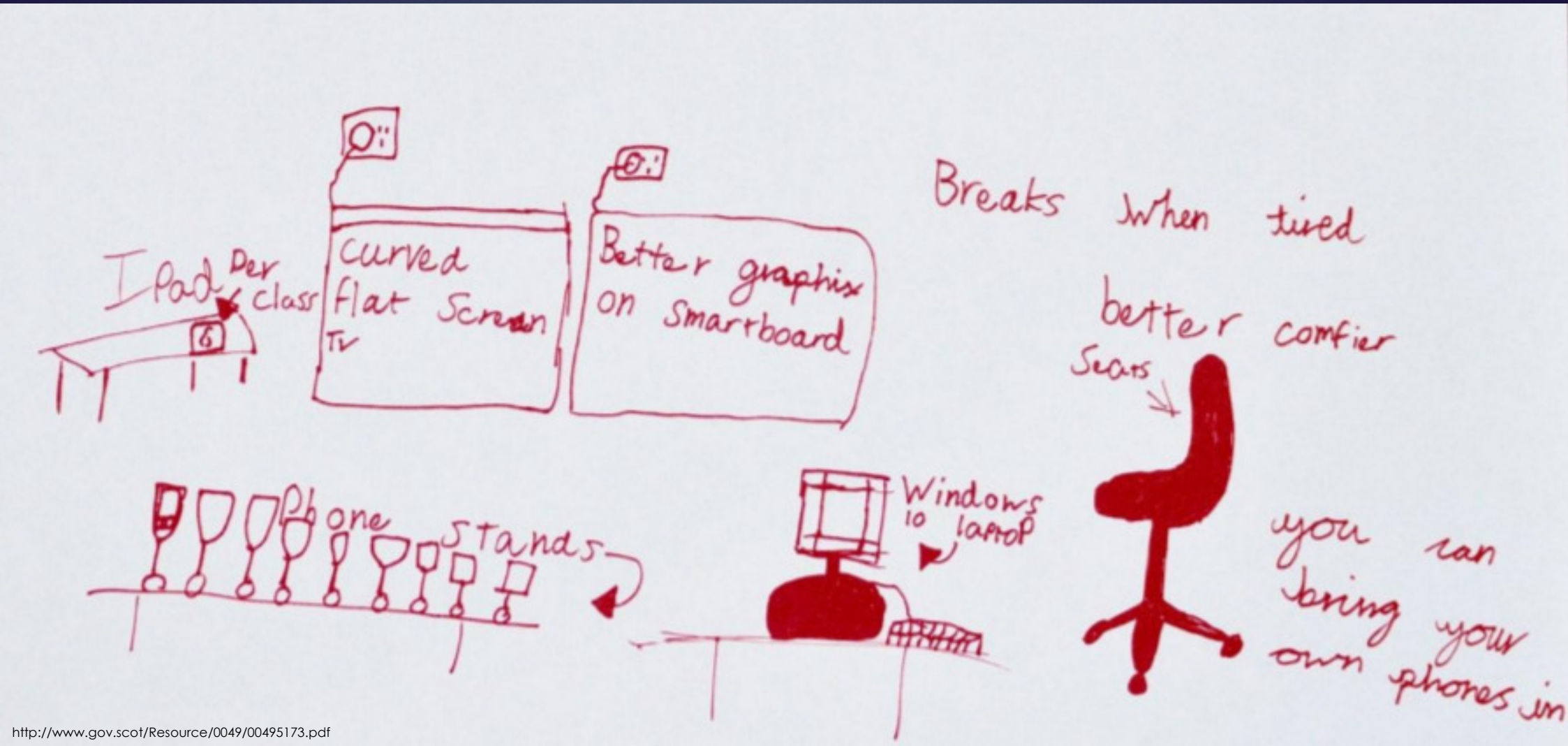
A child's version of the digital classroom of the future



http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00495173.pdf

Barriers to progress

- Lack of a coherent focus on Digital Literacies across the child-student journey
- Lack of a shared model articulating Digital Literacies
- Disconnect between the teacher and the student
- Lack of understanding of the student's digital life
- The skills gap – overestimation on both sides

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Where do FE & HE Libraries fit in?

- Do we have a seat at the table? *Are we using it?*
- We see the students in the places where they work
- We are by nature early adopters, innovators, sharers, resourceful – we can't afford to fall behind
- Digital Literacies might just present the opportunity academic libraries been waiting for

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What could Libraries do to help?

- Decide what our institutional role is to be
  - Help students make sense of the digital landscape
- Align what we do to the curriculum
  - Develop coherent DL strands or initiatives in curriculums
- Address the disconnects between staff & students
  - Work with students to understand their behaviours
- Upskill Library staff in DL first?

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Our mantra

Back to Megan Poore;

https://twitter.com/megpoore

"…we must create the conditions for people to become wise in their own way."

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Supporting resources

Selected links and readings are available via the pearltrees social bookmarking tool

www.pearltrees.com/azjackson

You can also provide feedback on this presentation via padlet

padlet.com/a_z_jackson/LibLitLearn

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http://maxpixel.freegreatpicture.com/Answers-Place-Name-Sign-Questions-Support-Town-Sign-1699957

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https://c1.staticflickr.com/5/4079/4759535950_7bca6684c8_b.jpg