

A newsletter for parents about what school library programs have to offer.

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## The School Library Link to Digital Literacy

According to professional sources, digital literacy is:

"A person's ability to perform tasks effectively in a digital environment... Literacy includes the ability to read and interpret media, to reproduce data and images through digital manipulation, and to evaluate and apply new knowledge gained from digital environments." (Jones-Kavalier & Flannigan, 2006).

"The ability to understand and use information in multiple formats from a wide range of sources when it is presented via computers," (Gilster, 1997).

Developing digital literacy is essential when so much information is being distributed via digital outlets.

This includes print, audio, and video, all of which can be distributed online, as well as via digital devices such as e-readers, smart phones, and MP3 players. First we'll look at some terms that help describe the digital culture and why becoming literate in that culture is essential.

Increasingly, school librarians are educating students about their use of online information and how to learn from and use that information responsibly and creatively.



### Digital Natives

"Digital natives" is the term for people who have grown up in a technological environment and who accept that environment as the norm.

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Digital natives feel comfortable using digital devices such as MP3 players and cell phones, and use them regularly.

### Participatory Culture

A "participatory culture" is a culture in which collaboration and the exchange of ideas is frequent. The availability of digital content tools makes participatory culture possible by removing barriers to communication and creating vehicles to develop support networks.



### Cloud Computing

Cloud computing refers to the servers offered by online businesses that store information outside your personal computer. For example, photo sharing sites such as Flickr and PhotoBucket offer users free digital storage for their photos. These photos are stored "in the cloud."

Want to know more? See page 2 for helpful resources on digital literacy!

### Resources

Gilster, Paul. *Digital Literacy*. New York: Wiley and Computer Publishing, 1997.

Jones-Kavalier, Barbara R. and Flannigan, Suzanne L. (2006). "Connecting the Digital Dots: Literacy of the 21st Century," *EDUCAUSE Quarterly Magazine*, <http://connect.educause.edu/Library/EDUCAUSE+Quarterly/ConnectingtheDigitalDotsL/39969>. Accessed on December 5, 2010.

# Read, Listen and Watch: Resources for Parents

Here are some useful resources in print and digital formats to learn about digital literacy and its impact on our students' learning.

## VIDEOS

### "A Vision of K-12 Students Today,"

<http://bit.ly/7vunzN>

An interesting presentation about digital collaboration and inquiry-based learning with students.

### "Did You Know 4.0?"



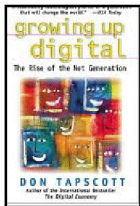
<http://bit.ly/1514CR>

An fascinating look into how much digital information we are bombarded with, and how it has affected modern culture and events.

## BOOKS

### *Managing Your Digital Footprint* by Robert Grayson (Rosen Central, 2011)

A young-adult book about managing your digital footprint; useful for parents to read up on how your future teenager might need to manage their online information and postings.



### *Growing Up Digital: The Rise of the Net Generation* by Don Tapscott (McGraw-Hill, 1999)

Based on interviews with 300 "Net-Generators" (people ages 11-30, the first generation to grow up surrounded by digital media), Tapscott predicted how this generation would be a catalyst for change in education, recreation, family, and government.

### *Grown Up Digital: How the Net Generation is Changing Your World* by Don Tapscott (McGraw-Hill, 2008)

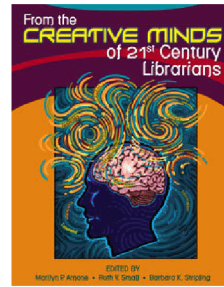
A follow-up to *Growing Up Digital*, this book is based on surveys of 11,000 young people and explores ways in which parents, educators, and employers can tap into the Net-Generation's potential and special skills.



## AUDIO

**Net @ Night #79 Interview with Don Tapscott on *Grown Up Digital*.** Available at <http://twit.tv/natn79>

## E-BOOK



*From the Creative Minds of 21st Century Librarians*, an e-book by Marilyn P. Arnone (Center for Digital Literacy, 2010). Available at <http://bit.ly/covNxB>

This 275-page e-book is available free from the CDL and contains dozens of lesson plans that implement the American Association of School Librarian's Standards for the 21st Century Learner, many of which incorporate digital literacy skills.

## ONLINE ARTICLE

"Connecting the Digital Dots: Literacy of the 21st Century," *EDUCAUSE Quarterly Magazine*, Vol 29, No. 2, 2006 by Barbara R. Jones-Kavalier and Suzanne L. Flannigan. Available at <http://bit.ly/EEiN7>  
An look into the new literacies and education.

## THE LINK TO... Your Digital Footprint

The term "digital footprint" refers to the trail or traces of information that people leave behind online through e-mails and attachments, blog posts, forum registrations, and uploads of digital videos or photos, to name a few. (It can also refer to other kinds of digital information that is collected from places such as car computers, television and cable systems, and more.) Keeping an eye on your digital footprint is important for privacy, security, and even for life issues such as employment eligibility. Learn more in this video: "Digital Footprints - Your New First Impression" at <http://bit.ly/1t2lxv>.



Watch for the next issue of  
*The School Library Link* to Copyright,  
Collaboration and Creativity