



UNIVERSITI  
TEKNOLOGI  
MARA

Cawangan Negeri Sembilan

EDISI 14

JUN 2025

# BULETIN APB

DIGITAL LEARNING

AKADEMI PENGAJIAN BAHASA  
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA  
CAWANGAN NEGERI SEMBILAN  
KAMPUS SEREMBAN



# *Why Digital Skills Are the New Literacy?*

**NOOR AZILA MOHD ZAID, DR HAZIRA MOHD NASIR, AINI HAYATI MUSA, DR RAJA MAYANG DELIMA MOHD BETA & DR ASMA' RASHIDAH IDRIS**  
**UiTM CAWANGAN NEGERI SEMBILAN KAMPUS REMBAU**

## **1.0 Introduction**

Basic reading and writing skills are no longer sufficient in today's rapidly evolving digital world. A new form of literacy, referred to as digital literacy, is emerging. Digital literacy encompasses several key components, including technical skills, critical thinking and evaluation, communication and collaboration, as well as the safe and ethical use of technology. It is essential for successful participation in the digital society and is crucial for many users, particularly those in educational settings. Within the realm of education, digital literacy has attained paramount importance, spanning from primary education to higher education. It facilitates study, research, and professional growth by empowering students to proficiently utilise digital resources and tools (Cordell, 2013). Educational frameworks and curricula have been revised to incorporate digital literacy as an essential element.



## **2.0 Why are Digital Skills so Important Now?**

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, digital skills have become increasingly important as education has transitioned to an online format. Students and teachers need to adapt quickly to the changes. Those with digital skills will easily adapt to the changes, while those without will face problems (Wigati et al., 2022). During the pandemic, the use of online platforms became popular. Lecturers in universities and teachers in schools are adopting a new, innovative platform for teaching, which includes Google Classroom, Microsoft Teams, and Zoom.

Despite the importance of digital skills in education, they are also essential in the job landscape (Tomczyk et al., 2020). Many jobs now require basic knowledge of technology, even in sectors such as agriculture. Farmers nowadays are using apps to monitor weather and market prices. Other sectors, such as retail and services, also require basic technology knowledge, whereby retail workers now manage online bookings and respond to customer queries through chat apps.

Nowadays, lifelong learning is undergoing a digital transformation. Numerous free online courses and eBooks enable anyone to continue learning new things without limits. Therefore, everyone must have digital skills to access all those online sources and excel in these digital skills and knowledge.

## **3.0 Strategies to Enhance Digital Literacy**

The significance of digital skills now influences society to improve its capabilities in these areas. All levels of society require exposure to increase awareness and educate individuals about digital knowledge. Digital skills should be introduced as early as primary school. Teachers ought to take action to teach the fundamentals from a young age, ensuring that students are familiar with basic computer usage, such as typing and searching for reliable information on the internet. Students should also be introduced to online communication via email and messaging platforms.

Furthermore, students should have the opportunity to explore new apps, platforms, and tools to foster creativity and independent learning. This exploration allows students to discover new learning styles, thereby developing critical skills (Marin et al., 2023). Such exposure can prepare them for real-world digital environments and enhance their academic experience.

Educators, as trainers, should receive ongoing training, as they require support to remain updated on emerging technologies and digital skills. Moreover, students and communities in rural areas must be exposed to and educated about these digital competencies. The government must ensure that rural and underserved communities have access to devices and the internet to prevent them from being left behind.

#### 4.0 Conclusion

In conclusion, digital literacy encompasses a broad and dynamic range of skills necessary for navigating the digital world. Digital skills are now essential for learning, working, and thriving in contemporary society. This involves technical abilities, critical thinking, and the ethical use of digital technologies that empower individuals to succeed in education, careers, and everyday life. Without these skills, one risks falling behind academically and socially.

#### References

- Cordell, R. M. (2013). Information literacy and digital literacy: competing or complementary? *Commfolit*, 7(2), 177. <https://doi.org/10.15760/commfolit.2013.7.2.150>
- Marin, V. I. & Castaneda, L. (2023). Developing digital literacy for teaching and learning. *Handbook of Open, Distance and Digital Education*, 1089-1108. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-19-2080-6\\_64](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-19-2080-6_64)
- Tomczyk, L. & Eger, L. (2020). Online safety as a new component of digital literacy for young people. *Integration of Education*, 24(2), 172-184. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-19-2080-6\\_64](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-19-2080-6_64)
- Wigati, I. and Fithriyah, M. (2022). *Post-COVID-19 strategy through supporting teacher digital literacy as a sustainable decision to enhance the education system: Indonesia case study*. 2022 International Conference on Decision Aid Sciences and Applications (DASA), 851-857. <https://doi.org/10.1109/dasa54658.2022.9765309>