

Information & Media Literacy:
Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Education and Digitalization in a Mediatized Information and Knowledge Society

November 23-24, 2018, University of Passau

CALL FOR PAPERS

Today computers, mobile devices, and internet access constitute a basic infrastructure of private households, companies, and public institutions in the western world. Digitalization and mediatization have come to permeate all spheres of our private and work spaces and have induced transformational social, political, and economic changes. It thus does not come as a surprise that the acceleration of production, distribution, searching, and accessing of information in the digital age have also sustainably changed the way knowledge transfer and acquisition take place in schools, higher education, and society in general. These developments notably confront today's society with major educational, economic, social, and political challenges on a broad scale.

Members of a younger generation are often considered to be "Digital Natives" (Prensky 2001). The term implies that this generation holds natural skills when it comes to dealing with and accessing (digital) media (content). Numerous studies, however, have shown that critical reflection and competent contextualization are usually not part of this assumed "Digital Native" skill set. Instead, studies imply that the generation of the so-called "Digital Native," although born into and grown up in a hyper-connected, networked, and mediatized society, is not necessarily able to critically reflect and competently deal with this environment from an information and media literacy perspective (Bennett/Maton/Kervin 2008; Schulmeister 2009; Li & Ranieri 2010; ICILS 2013). In today's networked society, it therefore is crucial to acknowledge this circumstance and address the subsequent challenges in all fields of education. As a result, information and media literacy needs to be understood as foundational key to a full-fledged and empowered participation in globalized and digitalized social and economic systems and needs to be promoted at the earliest possible stage in educational landscapes.

The conference at the University of Passau in November 2018 aims at addressing these issues, thereby taking up a topic – "Education for a networked and digital information and knowledge society" – also much promoted by actors in the political and economic sphere. We intend to go beyond the so far mostly mono-disciplinary and tech-oriented perspectives, explanatory approaches, and analytical models. Thus our conference will take up and discuss the impact of digital transformation facing our society from an interdisciplinary and integrative perspective, adding new ideas and approaches on pressing contemporary challenges in this context.

Over the course of our interdisciplinary "Information and Media Literacy Conference" we would like to invite you to discuss the following key topics with us:

- Information & Media Literacy and its socio-political, economic, and educational meaning, implication, and relevance (social, economic, and political participation in a digital world, education, and digitalization, etc.)
- Information & Media Literacy and its negotiation, organization, and implementation in educational contexts, spaces, and institutions (target dimensions, possibilities, and challenges, etc.)
- Information & Media Literacy and how it can help us facing contemporary challenges: Visions for a (better) digitalized, mediatized, and hyper-connected information and knowledge society (solutions, ideas for the future, etc.)

We look very much forward to conference submissions that take a closer look into one of the many questions and aspects dealing with the impact digitalization in the widest sense has on our society: How can and should we deal with information in a critically-competent and reflected manner today? How should educational processes be organized and reflected in the digital age? Which role do medial and technological contexts play in educational systems in this regard?

Additionally the conference aims at taking a closer look at the role the “information and media literate” plays in a networked information and knowledge society: Which set of skills does a prosumer need in order to critically reflect medially presented information and constructed knowledge? How and by which means does the empowered prosumer communicate knowledge and express (complex) interrelations in this context? Which skills with regard to the construction and reception of medially communicated content does a prosumer need in order to competently and successfully participate in today’s foundational social, cultural, political, or economic discourses? Which role do these skills play in a world defined by digitalization, Life-Long-Learning, and a hyper-mediatized communication landscape?

Seeking to contribute new impulses and ideas to the questions and topics outlined above, the conference sets its focus on an intensive interdisciplinary exchange of expertise and ideas and the productive bringing together as well as reflection of the broad variety of approaches to questions of education and digitalization. Therefore, we would like to particularly encourage the submission of contributions from an interdisciplinary perspective and/or with an innovative form of presentation. In addition to talks (in both English and German) the conference will also include workshops and other (alternative) cooperative and participative exchange formats dealing with the key topics of the conference. We are very much looking forward to exciting and innovative submissions as well as to our keynote-speakers’ perspectives on the conference’s key topics: Dr. Sarah Gretter (Michigan State University), Prof. Dr. Benjamin Jörissen (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg), and Dr. Andrew Whitworth (The University of Manchester).

Abstract-Submission

Please submit (as one PDF-document) a 300-500 word abstract, including a title and a short description of the format you plan to present at the conference until April 30, 2018 via email:

iml-conference@uni-passau.de.

Notification of a contribution's acceptance will be given by May 21, 2018.

In case of questions please contact:

Dr. Sarah Makeschin & Andreas Dengel: iml-conference@uni-passau.de.

For further information on the conference please check out

www.uni-passau.de/en/lehrprojekte/information-and-media-literacy/conference-2018

