

Notes from Digital Literacy Workshop

Main takeaways:

1. Digital literacy is critical for all activities for the EL seeking to advance along a career pathway.
2. Current systems are not well designed to develop digital literacy.
3. Separating “computer skills” out as a distinct curriculum or training experience is ineffective.
4. Embedding digital literacy in all training and all touchpoints of contact with the EL participant is critical and rarely done.
5. A DL curriculum should use the real life contexts of the EL participants.
6. There is a strong interest in identifying the possible resources in all their platforms and variety (e.g. delivered by cell phone). Sharing resources, or at the least linking to resource lists from the ALLIES website was requested.

INTRODUCTION/INTEREST ASSESSMENT

- How do we teach digital literacy? What do we need to be thinking about?
- How do you refer participants to supports to acquire DL (digital literacy)?
- Some provide DL training at the site. Some make referrals.
- Navigating through digital environments is as important as acquiring English literacy itself.
- All employment will have DL as an enabling skill to both become employed in the first place and then to actually perform in the workplace.
- Performance assessments, personality profiling, other HR procedures require DL
- Second jobs (Uber driver etc.) just compound the need for DL
- Pilots are interested in tools and practices and have a range of exposure and awareness.

HOW PROGRAMS CAN INCLUDE DL

- DL necessary to accelerate and personalize services.
- Teaching DL in a silo is ineffective. DL needs to be integrated in everything.
- DL can give EL participants the experience and skills to function with capacity to learn English in all areas of their lives.

USA LEARNS

- Three levels of coursework – free.
- 1.6 billion web page visits since 2008. 10mil users. Accessed from every country in the world.
- Has just launched new US Citizenship course. Aligned with all citizenship standards and incorporates best practices.
- USA Learns site registration form required for use, but form values confidentiality.
- Assessment questions – question about how to place students in levels, are they aligned with National Reporting System? (Answer needs to be clarified).

- Citizenship course - Detailed teaching about the ICE 400 application. Vocabulary development specific about the ICE 400 application. History and civics components of the course.

INNOVATIVE MODELS OF DISTANCE LEARNING/DL FOR EL ADULTS (ed tech table)

- Smart phones have opened many new opportunities
- Many of the models have great flexibility for different life challenges, will enable independence and self-agency for immigrants.
- Digital tools can support case management.
- Customize, customize, customize... DL is underutilized to create a personalized training environment.

RESOURCES

- NORTHSTAR – FREE DIGITAL LITERACY ASSESSMENT <https://www.digitalliteracyassessment.org/>
- DIGITALLEARN.ORG <https://digitallearn.org/>
- DIGITALHOMEROOM <https://edtech.worlded.org/the-digital-homeroom/>
- Leamos <http://www.spanishdict.com/translate/leamos>
- Pumarosa - <http://www.pumarosa.com/>

QUESTION TO PARTICIPANTS – HOW WOULD YOU INCLUDE THIS IN YOUR PROGRAMS

- One program planning to develop new computer classes “next year”
- Another program thinking about how to include digital literacy in the IET program they are building.
- Another program mindful about including digital communication in every
- Rural case managers texting participants – encouraging participation.