



Digital Literacy In Higher Education

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Abstract

This present paper aims to discuss the role of digital literacy in the age of internet and digital technologies, and its crucial importance for the adaptation of the young people to the globalization, to the dynamically developing labour market. The construction of digital skills and capabilities is one of the priorities of the European education policy in 21st century.

After defining the digital literacy, the author focuses on issues of integration of information and communication technology (ICT) in higher education and the opportunities for improving the new range of students' digital skills and capabilities to learn effectively and efficiently. A need for greater awareness of the importance of digital competence is indicated, to determine what this competence is and to search ways to its increase at the university. The author identifies that the latest interactive computer technology allows the students to have the advantage not only to receive and store the necessary information, but also to act as active creators in the new learning environment thanks to the wider possibilities for expressing their innovative and selective behaviour.

The conducted analysis is supported by empirical data obtained through qualitative survey among some groups of students at the South-West University "N. Rilski". The empirical component wants to study the degree of utilization of new technologies in education and learning, and the level of students' perception of the information and digital competences, as well as the opportunities for improving their digital literacy at the university. There is some empirical indication of the students' motivation and attitude towards acquiring new and more flexible learning abilities through the increase of their digital literacy.

In conclusion, the paper highlights the key role of the SWU for helping students to develop, improve and enrich the range of digital skills using the great potential of Internet and digital media.