Digital Literacy in the EAP Classroom

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Abstract

In today's knowledge-based, globally connected society, the ability to effectively communicate across borders of time and place in English, utilizing a wide range of digital literacies is essential. The definition of digital literacy is continuously evolving as social media, tools and apps are introduced at an accelerated pace. However, in the context of this paper, the digitally literate student demonstrates openness, the ability to problem solve, to critically reflect, technical capability and a willingness to collaborate and keep up to date prompted by the changing contexts in which they use information. The demands on EAP (English for Academic Purposes) students transcend the traditional reading-writing paradigm; our students are expected to be English 'literate' in a much broader sense, in their studies, private lives and future careers.

In this talk we will demonstrate the implementation of the Technological Pedagogical Content Knowledge model known as TPACK (Koehler & Mishra, 2008) which promotes the development of digital literacies and encourages learner autonomy and accountability in the language acquisition process.

Specifically, we will discuss effective practice of digital tools and applications that not only serve to motivate and engage today's mobile learners but also to facilitate their ability to effectively function in today's knowledge society. Finally, we will illustrate with tasks, activities and student exemplars from actual EAP courses.