

**21st Century  
Information  
Literacy  
Standards for the  
Digital Learners  
of New York**



NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
*The Voice of the Library Community*

# Introduction

The 21st Century definition for Information Literacy encompasses a broad array of competencies including digital, visual, textual, and technological.

The continuing expansion of information demands that all New Yorkers acquire the thinking skills that will enable them to learn on their own, use technology, and demonstrate ethical behavior when using information. These skills will foster life-long learners who are productive workers in a democratic society.

*Information Literacy Standards for the Digital Learners of New York* offer a vision for learners in K-12 schools, higher education, libraries, and life-long learning. These Standards are based on, and aligned with, national standards from: the American Library Association (ALA) and the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE).

The Standards are a continuum of learning and are based on the following Common Beliefs:

- ◆ **Libraries** - provide essential community spaces, tools, and resources for 21st century learning
- ◆ **Librarians** - are essential for development of learning skills and successful learning experiences
- ◆ **Reading** - is a window to the world and a foundational skill for learning
- ◆ **Ethical Behavior** - is essential in a global society
- ◆ **Equitable Access** - is a key component for a successful society
- ◆ **Inquiry** - provides a framework for decision making and learning
- ◆ **Technological Skills** - are crucial for successful employment, learning, and communication
- ◆ **Thinking Skills** - enable life-long learning.

*Digital learners practice safe and responsible use of online environments.*

# **Information Literacy Standards for the Digital Learners of New York**

*Digital learners use skills, resources and tools to:*

- 1. Inquire, think critically, and gain knowledge.**
- 2. Draw conclusions, make informed decisions, apply knowledge to new situations, and create new knowledge.**
- 3. Share knowledge and participate ethically and productively.**
- 4. Develop an appreciation for ideas and information in pursuit of personal growth.**

*Digital learners transfer current knowledge to the use of new information technologies.*

# 1

## ***Digital learners inquire, think critically, and gain knowledge.***



### **Digital learners inquire, by...**

- ◆ following an inquiry-based process in seeking knowledge
- ◆ defining and articulating the need for information
- ◆ developing and refining questions to frame the search
- ◆ planning and implementing effective search strategies



### **Digital learners think critically, by...**

- ◆ using prior experience and background knowledge
- ◆ selecting and using appropriate technology tools to access information
- ◆ Finding, evaluating, and selecting appropriate sources to answer a question
- ◆ reading, viewing, and listening for information in an appropriate format (textual, visual, media, digital)
- ◆ evaluating information for accuracy, validity, appropriateness
- ◆ analyzing information by identifying misconceptions, main and supporting ideas, conflicting information, and point of view or bias
- ◆ making inferences supported by evidence to determine meaning



### **Digital learners gain knowledge, by...**

- ◆ gathering information from diverse perspectives for a comprehensive view
- ◆ connecting new information to previous knowledge and experience
- ◆ collaborating with others throughout the inquiry process to broaden and deepen understanding



## 2

***Digital learners draw conclusions, make informed decisions, apply knowledge to new situations, and create new knowledge.***

**Digital learners draw conclusions and make informed decisions, by...**

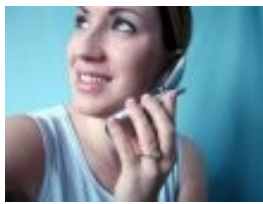
- ◆ using critical thinking skills such as analysis, synthesis, and evaluation
- ◆ evaluating information critically
- ◆ selecting and managing information to implement effective solutions
- ◆ considering multiple strategies, diverse perspectives, and alternative solutions

**Digital learners apply knowledge to new situations, by...**

- ◆ transferring current knowledge to new information technologies, solving problems, generating new ideas and products
- ◆ using technology to analyze and organize information
- ◆ organizing knowledge in a useful way
- ◆ validating new understandings

**Digital learners create new knowledge, by...**

- ◆ applying multiple literacies to express new understandings
- ◆ collaborating with others to inquire and share information
- ◆ incorporating new knowledge into their value systems and reconciling differences



# 3

## ***Digital learners share knowledge and participate ethically and productively.***



### **Digital learners share knowledge, by...**

- ◆ collaborating effectively
- ◆ communicating globally
- ◆ utilizing a variety of media formats
- ◆ respecting others' viewpoints



### **Digital learners participate ethically, by...**

- ◆ seeking diverse perspectives to gain a balanced viewpoint
- ◆ following institutional policies, state regulations, and federal laws
- ◆ understanding "netiquette"
- ◆ practicing safe and responsible use of online environments
- ◆ comprehending the potential economic impact of information
- ◆ perceiving the social implications of information
- ◆ crediting the original creator of information



### **Digital learners participate productively, by...**

- ◆ exhibiting leadership
- ◆ participating in lifelong learning
- ◆ creating solutions
- ◆ connecting learning to reality
- ◆ generating original works in a variety of media formats



# 4

## ***Digital learners develop an appreciation for information and ideas in pursuit of personal growth.***

### **Digital learners develop an appreciation for information and ideas by...**

- ◆ reading, viewing, and listening for pleasure and personal growth to make connections with self and the world
- ◆ showing an appreciation for the creative expression of ideas in various formats and genres
- ◆ interpreting new information based on cultural and social context
- ◆ maintaining an openness to new and divergent ideas
- ◆ connecting ideas to one's own interests and prior knowledge and experience
- ◆ participating safely in social networks to gather and share information both electronically and in person
- ◆ creating original works as a means of personal or group expression

### **Digital learners pursue personal growth by...**

- ◆ identifying their own areas of interest
- ◆ recognizing the limits of own personal knowledge
- ◆ exhibiting a positive attitude toward using technology that supports collaboration, learning, and productivity
- ◆ pursuing interests using multiple resources and appropriate technology
- ◆ practicing safe and ethical behaviors in personal electronic communication and interaction
- ◆ demonstrating personal responsibility for lifelong learning



# About NYLA

The New York Library Association (NYLA) was founded in 1890 and is the first state-wide organization of librarians in the United States. Our mission is to lead in the development, promotion and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning, quality of life, and equal opportunity for all New Yorkers.

Libraries and librarians are essential to the development of learning skills by providing equitable physical and intellectual access to the resources and tools required for learning in a warm, stimulating and safe environment. Librarians collaborate with others to provide instruction, learning strategies, and practice in using the essential learning skills needed in the 21st century.

## NYLA Information Literacy Task Force

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