

EXPERTS OR AMATEURS?

Gauging Young Canadians' Digital Literacy Skills
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METHODOLOGY Conducted February to June of 2013

5,436 Canadian students in grades 4-11 in 10 provinces and three territories

41% boys 46% girls 13% no indication

126 English 14 French

140 schools in 51 school boards

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BYOD (BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE) TO CLASS:

53% of students are able to use their own laptops, 31% tablets, 27% e-readers

25% cell/smart phones

SCHOOL FILTERS:

36% say that they have had trouble finding something they need for their school work due to filtering software

25% of students say they are able to bypass school filters

ILLEGAL DOWNLOADING:

46% of students (29% in Grade 4 and 72% in Grade 11) agree with the statement, "Downloading music, TV shows or movies illegally is not a big deal."

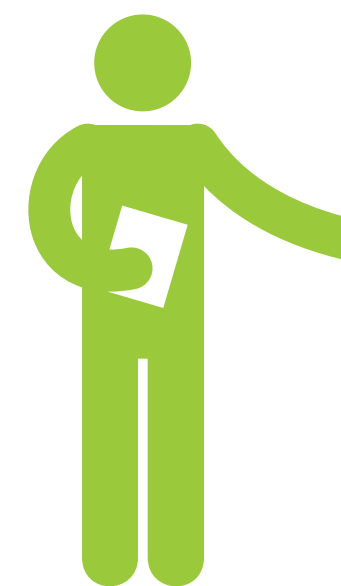
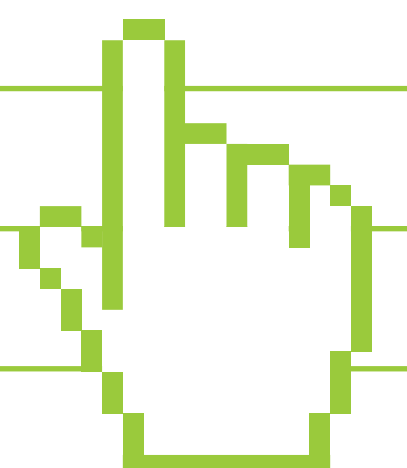
There is a direct correlation between families with household rules about downloading media and the likelihood and frequency of students doing so illegally.

WHAT IS DIGITAL LITERACY? Digital literacy refers to the wide range of skills that enable young people to use digital technologies to better understand the world around them and to participate effectively in educational, cultural, civic and economic life.

USE represents the technical fluency that's needed to engage with computers and the Internet.

METHODS STUDENTS USE WHEN SEARCHING FOR INFORMATION ONLINE:

- 61%** Use more than one search engine
- 61%** Start a search over if they're not happy with the results
- 50%** Scan the full first page of results before clicking on a link
- 35%** Use advanced search engine tools



Parents (47%) and teachers (45%) are the main sources for learning about searching for information online.

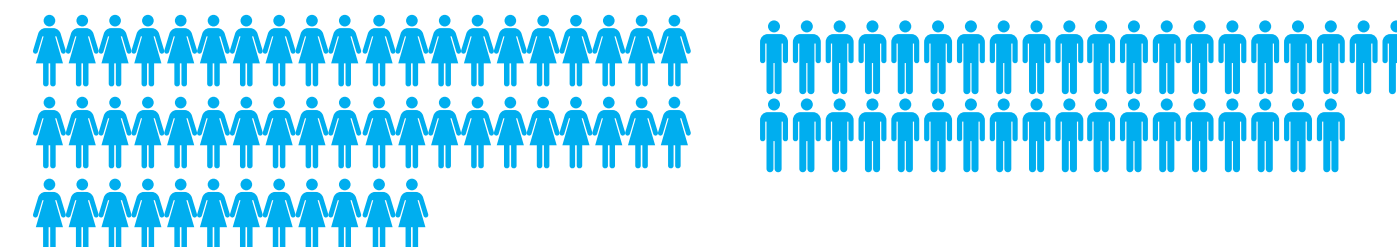
UNDERSTAND refers to the set of skills that help us comprehend, contextualize and critically evaluate digital media.

STRATEGIES FOR VERIFYING ONLINE INFORMATION:

GRADE	Ask teacher	Ensure facts are from topic experts	Does site show only one side of issue?	Are opinions backed by verifiable facts?	Research reliability of source	Do other sources say same thing?
4	67%	56%	33%	37%	41%	48%
8	47%	56%	42%	51%	41%	72%
11	50%	62%	53%	61%	53%	75%

LEARNING DIGITAL SKILLS: GIRLS VERSUS BOYS

52% of girls have learned authentication skills from teachers compared to 38% of boys.



21% of boys have learned authentication skills from online sources compared to 14% of girls.



WHAT STUDENTS WANT TO LEARN:

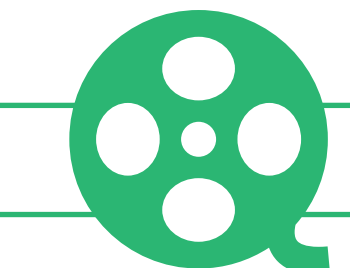
- 51%** How to tell if online information is true
- 45%** What is legal and illegal to do online
- 36%** How companies collect and use personal information



CREATE is the ability to produce content and effectively communicate through a variety of digital media tools.

CREATING DIGITAL CONTENT - "IT'S ALL ABOUT THE SOCIAL":

- 72%** Post comments or pictures on their own social network sites
- 38%** Post a story or a piece of artwork that they created themselves
- 33%** Post video or audio files of themselves
- 22%** Post a "mashup" or "remix" video



ONLINE ACTIVISM AND ADVOCACY

50% of grades 7-11 students have shared links to a news story or information about current events

29% of grades 7-11 students have posted comments on a news site

35% of students have joined or supported an activist group online