New Literacy in the Digital World: Implications for Higher Education

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Background image source: Flickr by Noah Sussman

IN THIS PRESENTATION

• Emerging technologies create new practices for locating, accessing, using and creating information
• These challenge traditional conception of “a literate person”
• What is New literacy?
• Recommendations for institutions
20 Year Ego

- No Internet
- No Windows
- No many computers around
- No MP player
- No Digital Cameras
- No PNP, no Nintendo
- No Blogs, Youtube, Facebook
- No many other artifacts that are part students’ life today

Source: http://www.flickr.com/photos/futurestreet/
Web 2.0 Developments

1. User **controls** information
2. Web as a point of **presence**
3. Web as a **social** environments
4. Web as a **platform**

Getting information off the internet is like taking a drink from a fire hydrant.

Mitchell Kapor

Image source: http://www.flickr.com/photos/will-lion/
Information?

Source: Gauravonomics from Flickr.
Data from Wave 3 of the Power of the People Social Media Tracker by Universal McCann.
Mobile Devices

Worldwide Mobile Projections (eMarketer)

Source: https://digitalcommons.georgetown.edu/blogs/isdyahoofellows/category/bric/page/2/

Literacy Meta-skills

Traditional Language Skills
Read  Write  Speak  Listen

New Language Skills
View  Represent

Examples
Traditional Literacy
- Reading, writing, speaking, and listening

Information Literacy
- The ability to identify what information is needed and the ability to locate, evaluate, and use information

Social Networking Literacy
- The ability to develop strategic networks, engage in ethical ways with others, and understand challenges and strategies for protecting oneself

Digital Literacy
- The ability to use digital technology, communication tools, networks to locate, evaluate, use, and create information

Tool Literacy
- The ability to use tools to manage, consume, and create information

Media Literacy
- The ability to question, analyze, interpret, evaluate, and create media messages

Visual Literacy
- The ability to understand and produce visual messages

Critical Literacy
- The ability to question, challenge, and evaluate the meanings and purposes of texts

Media Literacy

Levels of Literacy

Individual ↔ Socio-cultural

Level 1: Personal

Level 2: Popular

Level 3: Professional

Level 4: Innovative

Everyday ↔ Formal-institutions
Conditions for New Literacy Learning in HE

Curriculum
- Undergraduate and postgraduate
- Cross curriculum integration
- Alignment with educational aims

Pedagogy
- Student-centered practices
- Supported by technology
- Collaboration and sharing

Assessment
- Digital portfolios
- Digital essays
- Multimodal expressions

Environment
- Supporting student-centeredness
- Learning commons
- Technology enhanced

System
- Flexible system, open source
- Supports pedagogical approaches
- Integrates with other services

Support
- Staff development
- Support centers
- Digital assets and other resources

Key Skills in 21st Century Teaching and Learning

Harvesting:
E.g., locating, digging, leveraging collective intelligence, community plumbing, bookmarking, tagging, viewing, evaluating...

Designing:
E.g., digital storytelling, authoring, representing, redesigning...

Mashing:
E.g., blogging, co-publishing, subscribing, mixing...
RISAL@HKU

Repository of interactive social assets for learning

RISAL is available at: http://risal.cite.hku.hk

Thanks for attention

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