

Digital Resources to Create Independent Learning Opportunities for Your ESOL Students

*A First Literacy Professional Development Workshop**

February 3, 2017 and March 3, 2017

This selected list of resources is organized by theme. Teachers and program directors are encouraged to expand, personalize, and update the list to increase its relevance to individual program needs.

Assessment of Digital Literacy Skills

Cell phone Survey - <http://tinyurl.com/yjzqxy6>

The questions in this survey give teachers information about their students' access to cell phones, the types of phones they use, and the ways in which they use them.

North Star Basic Computer Skills Assessment - www.digitalliteracyassessment.org/

The Northstar Digital Literacy Project defines and assesses basic skills needed to perform tasks on computers and online. After successfully completing various assessments, people can obtain a Northstar Digital Literacy Certificate, which can serve as a credential for employment. There is no cost to complete the assessment modules.

Student Computer Skills Survey -

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tvx_olw5HtkEGswmIuG2k9xKancwpR_EHRXiiuz-JB8/edit?usp=sharing

This survey asks a series of questions to help teachers assess their students' experience with computer use and access to the Internet.

Technology Self-Assessment Tool (TSAT) - www.doe.mass.edu/odl/standards/sa_tool.html

Developed by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, this tool serves as a self assessment instrument to help guide professional development for digital literacy.

Access to Technology

EveryoneOn - everyoneon.org/adulted

EveryoneOn is a national nonprofit organization whose work focuses on increasing access to free and low-cost Internet service and free digital literacy courses. Through EveryoneOn, adult educators can purchase low-cost Internet access that enables them to use Wi-Fi hotspots for their classrooms.

Professional Development for Teachers and Administrators

LINCS - lincs.ed.gov/

LINCS offers archived webinars, community of practices and online courses for adult education practitioners.

Digital Promise - digitalpromise.org/

Digital Promise works to improve digital learning opportunities for low-skilled, under-served adults in the United States. Click "Adult Learning" under their drop down menu for 'Our Work.'

Blended Learning for the Adult Education Classroom

<http://app.essential.ed.com/resources/blended-learning-teachers-guide-web.pdf>

This free, downloadable step-by-step guide is intended to help teachers and administrators in adult basic education programs explore approaches to integrating blended learning into their classroom methodology.

Tech Tips for Teachers - <http://edtech.worlded.org/blog/>

This World Education blog offers a menu of practical lessons, including topics such as: mobile writing, using Google Docs, and using discussion boards in the classroom.

Top Tech Tips from 2016

World Education EDTech Center

<http://edtech.worlded.org/looking-back-at-2016/>

Common Online Learning Management Systems (LMS)

Blackboard - www.blackboard.com

Blackboard is a learning management system (LMS) that allows for online communication among students and between students and instructor. Blackboard is a common choice for college classes.

Edmodo - <https://www.edmodo.com/>

Edmodo is a web-based platform similar to Facebook where teachers can post assignments and students can upload documents to share. Unlike Facebook, Edmodo is a closed environment where the teacher approves and enrolls students.

Moodle - moodle.org/

Moodle is a learning platform or course management system (CMS)—a free open source software package designed to help educators create effective online learning communities. It is often used for college courses or blended learning.

Easy Web Templates

WIX - www.wix.com/

Wix is a drag and drop website builder. Teachers can choose a template and insert content to build an interactive website with and for students. It is not necessary to know computer code to use Wix.

WEEBLY - www.weebly.com

Weebly is another drag and drop website builder that offers a wide variety of pre-designed templates. It also offers hosting services.

Digital Literacy Standards

TESOL Technology Standards Framework - <https://www.tesol.org/>

The TESOL technology standards, based on the National Educational Technology Standards (NETS) Project in the International Society for Technology in Education, focus on how ESOL teachers should use technology effectively as part of instruction.

Massachusetts Technology Literacy Standards and Expectations

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/odl/standards/itstand.pdf>

This document updates and defines what K–12 students should know and be able to do in order to use technology for learning.

International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)

www.iste.org/standards/iste-standards/standards-for-teachers

www.iste.org/standards/iste-standards/standards-for-students

Organizations

Tech Goes Home (TGH) - www.techgoeshome.org

TGH Community provides teacher training to help adult educators integrate digital literacy skills into their programs. When participants complete TGH training, they can purchase a new computer for \$50 and receive assistance in obtaining low-cost Internet access.

Classroom/Program Resources

Azar Grammar - http://www.azargrammar.com/materials/FWG_TOC.html

This online companion to Azar's grammar texts is developed by teachers and provides a useful source for worksheets and activities on different aspects of grammar.

Common Sense Education - <http://www.common sense media.org/educators/digital-citizenship>

Common Sense Education offers free professional development for teachers. It also offers a digital citizenship curriculum with full scope and sequence. Although the focus is on the K-12 system, adult educators can draw from the Grades 9-12 section of the curriculum for adult education classes.

DIGITAL LITERACY.gov - <https://digitalliteracy.gov/>

This comprehensive site offers practical tools for educators, such as tutorials on health issues, copyright basics, how to take an on-line course, Internet safety precautions, basic computer skills, and professional presentation on social media.

Using Cell phones as learning tools - <http://www.teachhub.com/how-use-cell-phones-learning-tools>

This short article offers some useful pointers on making the most of Smartphones.

Integrating Digital Literacy into English Language Instruction: Companion Learning Resource
http://lincs.ed.gov/sites/default/files/LINCS_CLR-2_508.pdf

This resource has examples of strategies, tools, and lesson ideas that support the development of digital literacy skills within the context of English language instruction.

Guide to Online Research - digitalliteracy.cornell.edu/tutorial/dpl3220.html

This site is especially helpful when teaching research skills for academic purposes: how to locate, evaluate, and cite sources; what counts as plagiarism; copyright law, and more.

Interview Questions for Hiring an Educational Technology Leader

http://www.cosn.org/sites/default/files/pdf/CoSN_Empowered_Superintendent_CTO_Interview_Questions_FINAL.pdf

Khan Academy - www.khanacademy.org

Khan Academy offers practice exercises, instructional videos, and a personalized learning dashboard that allows learners to study at their own pace. Site includes math, science, U.S. history, world history, and grammar.

Open Educational Resources (OER): Resource Roundup

www.edutopia.org/open-educational-resources-guide

An educator's guide to open educational resources for information about online repositories, curriculum-sharing websites, sources for lesson plans and activities, and open alternatives to textbooks.

Real World MATH - www.realworldmath.org/

Real World Math is a collection of free math activities for Google Earth designed for students and educators.

Tune in to Learning - <http://www.tv411.org/>

This site offers short videos to teach aspects of reading, writing, vocabulary, science, math, and finance.

Tune in to Learning - www.tv411.org/reading/ or www.tv411.org/writing

This thoughtful, expansive site offers videos to introduce a variety of reading/writing skills—from understanding information on medicine labels and leases to critically analyzing campaign posters. This site is aligned with CCRSAE in many ways, including videos on restating a poem, “reading” art, and reading for work.

Glossary

21st Century Skills – refers to a broad set of knowledge, skills, work habits, and character traits that are believed by educators and employers to be critically important to success in college and career settings.

Address bar - An **address bar** (also **location bar** or **URL bar**) is a feature in a web browser that shows the current URL and accepts a typed URL that navigates the user to a chosen website.

Application - a computer program that is written and designed for a specific need or purpose.

Bandwidth-Bandwidth describes the maximum data transfer rate of a network or Internet connection. It measures how much data can be sent over a specific connection in a given amount of time.

Digital Footprint - digital footprint is a trail of data created while using the Internet. It includes the websites visited, emails sent, and information submitted to online services.

Format - The term "format" has several meanings, related to 1) disk formatting, 2) page formatting, and 3) file formats.

Google Drive - Google Drive is a service offered by Google that allows one to store and share files online. The goal of Google Drive is to provide a central place to store files online so that one can access them from anywhere. The web-based Google Docs applications is used to create or edit documents online.

Hardware - Computer hardware refers to the physical parts of a computer and related devices. Internal hardware devices include motherboards, hard drives, and RAM. External hardware devices include monitors, keyboards, mice, printers, and scanners.

Internet Service Provider (ISP) - An ISP provides access to the Internet. Whether at home or work, each time you connect to the Internet, the connection is routed through an ISP.

IP Address - An IP address, or simply an "IP," is a unique address that identifies a device on the Internet or a local network.

Link - When you are browsing the Web and you see a highlighted and underlined word or phrase on a page, there is a good chance you are looking at a link. By clicking on a link, you can "jump" to a new Web page or a completely different Web site.

Menu Bar - A menu bar is a user interface element that contains selectable commands and options for a specific program.

Navigation Bar - A navigation bar is a user interface element within a webpage that contains links to other sections of the website.

Netiquette - Netiquette, or net etiquette, refers to etiquette on the Internet. Good netiquette involves respecting others' privacy and not doing anything online that will annoy or frustrate other people.

Operating System - An operating system, or "OS," is software that communicates with the hardware and allows other programs (like applications) to run. For example: a common operating system for a PC is Windows. An operating system for Apple is Mac OS. **Platform** - In the computer world, a "platform" typically refers to a computer's operating system.

Resolution - Refers to the sharpness and clarity of an image. The term is most often used to describe monitors and printers.

Server - A server is a computer that provides data to other computers. It may serve data to systems on a local area network (LAN) or a wide area network (WAN) over the Internet.

Storyboard - is a graphic organizer in the form of illustrations or images displayed in sequence for the purpose of visualizing a movie, animation, motion graphic or interactive media sequence.

Software - Computer software is a general term that describes computer programs. Related terms such as software programs, applications, scripts, and instruction sets all fall under the category of computer software.

URL - Stands for "Uniform Resource Locator." A URL is the address of a specific webpage or file on the Internet.

Web Browser-A web browser, or simply "browser," is an application used to access and view websites. Common web browsers include Microsoft Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, and Apple Safari.

Web Page - A web page (or webpage) is a web document that is suitable for the World Wide Web and the web browser. A web browser displays a web page on a monitor or mobile device.

Note: Many of these resources were found in the document: *Digital Literacy: A Guide for Adult Basic Education Programs* published by ACLS at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.