

TLA DIGITAL CONVERSATIONS: BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

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MAYOR'S OFFICE
FOR ADULT LITERACY



DIGITAL OPPORTUNITIES



Bridging the Digital Divide
November 20 | 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Register: bit.ly/txlawebinar

“The Mayor’s Office for Adult Literacy envisions a Houston where every individual can obtain the skills necessary to prosper and reach their full potential.”

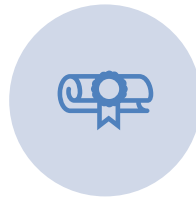


The Problem

More than 1 million adults in Houston are functionally illiterate



1 in every 3 adults in Harris County functions at the lower levels of functional literacy



Source:

Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC), 2013

(State and County Indicators of Adult Literacy and Numeracy, NCES, 2020)



<https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/piaac/skillsmap/>

A Strategic Plan for Action

- Awareness & action
- A comprehensive system
- Multi-generational learning
- Workforce skills & opportunities
- Digital resources and skills

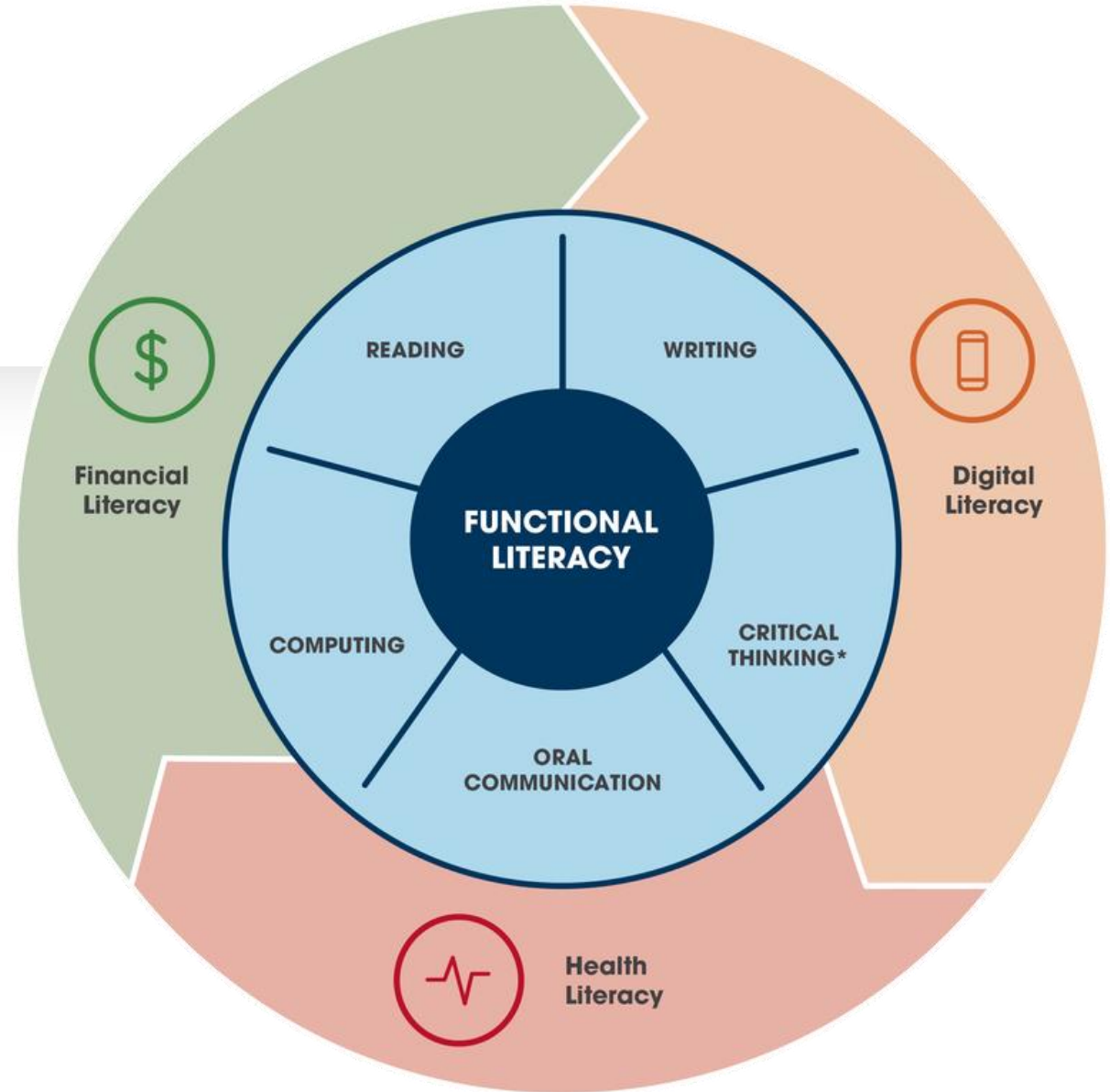
<https://www.houstontx.gov/adultliteracyblueprint/index.html>



Functional Literacy

“Technology is like our neighbors. We all have them, but we really don’t know or understand them. Access is not enough; we need the digital literacy training to truly understand how to use the technology.”

HOUSTON ADULT LITERACY LEARNER



* Refers to the ability to make decisions, synthesize information, and solve problems.

Digital Literacy:

The ability to access, understand, synthesize, interact with, and communicate information from an electronic environment

Digital Skills are Essential for Middle-Skill Jobs

- Nearly 80% of middle-skill jobs require basic digital skills like spreadsheet and word processing.

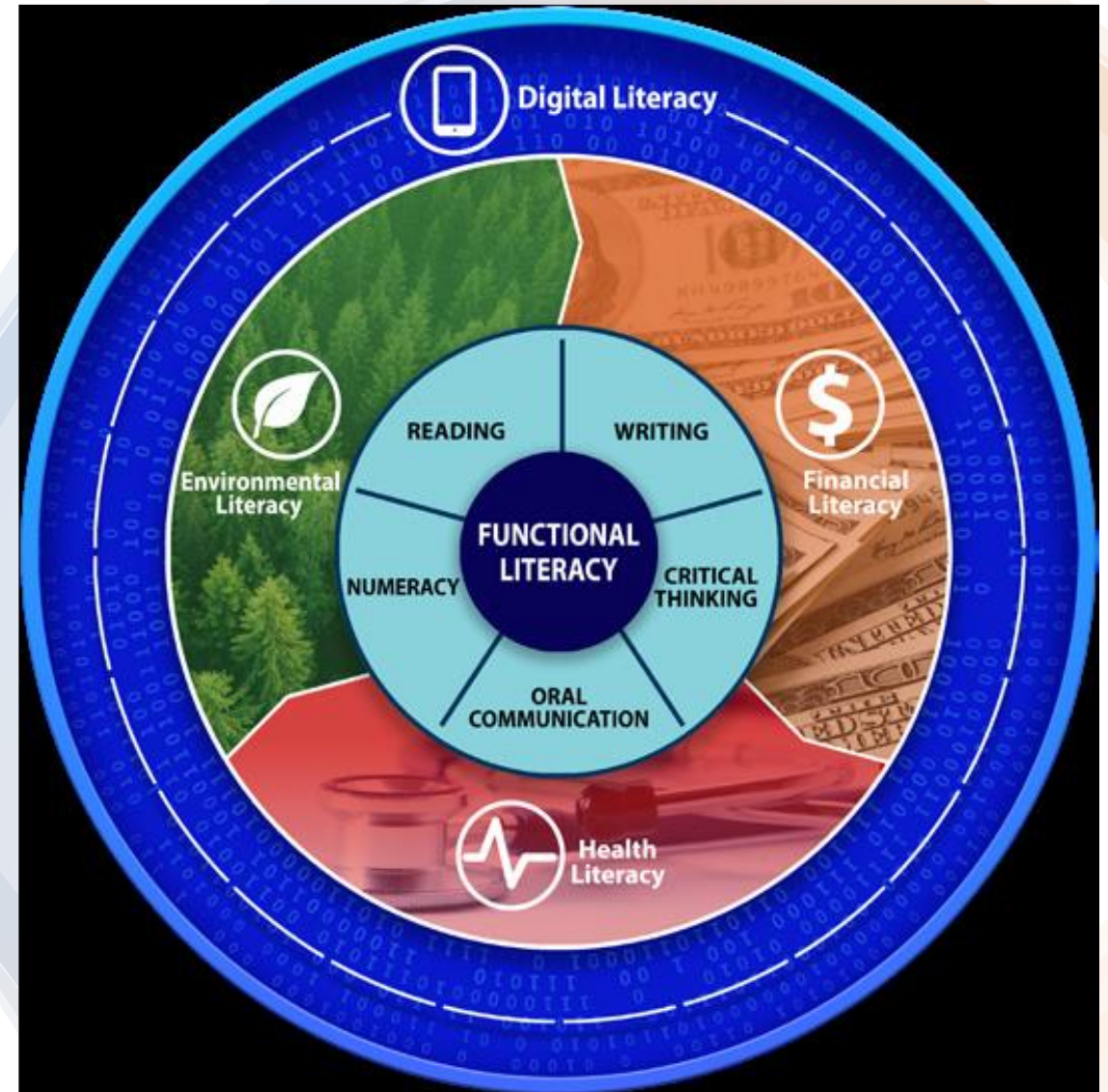
Digital Skills Drive Job Growth

- Digitally intensive middle-skill jobs are growing at a faster rate (4.7%) compared to non-digital middle-skill jobs (1.9%) between 2003 and 2013.

Digital Skills Lead to Higher Pay

- Digitally intensive middle-skill jobs offer an 18% higher average wage (\$23.76/hour) compared to non-digital middle-skill jobs (\$20.14/hour).

Source: Adult Literacy Blueprint based on a study of job postings by Burning Glass Technologies





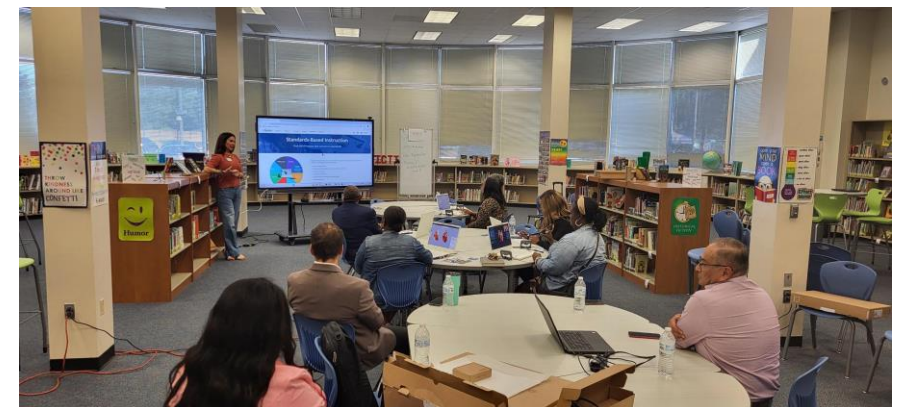
Digital Literacy Equity Project:

Promoting digital literacy in historically under-resourced communities

- Funded by ARPA grant
- 5 fully equipped computer labs
- 1 Mobile Technology Demo Unit
- 2 HPL neighborhood libraries in areas of high demand
- Expert Guidance: Digital Literacy Navigators
- Access to the latest technologies

zSpace: The Ultimate Learning Experience

Advanced laptops with a highly immersive 3D experience
Perfect for pre-skilling and upskilling students in digital literacy



How public libraries are helping bridge the digital divide?

Access to Technology

- Physical access to computers and internet connections

Digital Resources

- e-books, databases, online learning platforms

Digital Literacy Programs:

- Computer classes, workshops, online research, digital content creation

One-on-One Assistance:

- Guidance on online research to help individuals find reliable information and evaluate sources
- Internet safety and cyberbullying prevention
- Guidance on safe online practices

Equitable Access

- Fosters a welcoming and inclusive environment for digital learning

Digital Literacy Resources



BRIDGES TOOLKIT

- Developed by Jeff Goumas with World Education

<https://digitalskillslibrary.org/gateway-skills>

SkillBlox <https://www.skillblox.org>

Digital learn: digitallearn.org

- The Public Library Association's (PLA) curated collection of free digital literacy courses and training materials

The Power of Integration

Integrating Digital Literacy into English Classes

Using digital games to develop essential digital literacy skills while enhancing the language learning experience.

Some tools:

- Flippity.net
- Jotboard.co
- quizlet.com
- Padlet.com

a) Example of an engaging and interactive icebreakers with Flippity:

- https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/14JiPFTR2bsvcHGLdQ1E8ZZasswSq1qLHS3pV5t2S8Y8/mobilepresent?slide=id.g3088ab17f47_0_0

(Developed by Nell Eckersley, Director of Digital Equity Projects at New York's Literacy Assistance Center)



Thank you for joining us today!

Let's keep the conversation going!

Only working together, we can make a difference!

Mayor's Office For Adult Literacy
There is no EQUITY without LITERACY
<https://www.houstontx.gov/adultliteracy/>



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