Blazing a Trail for Literacy Exploration Through Design Thinking

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Workshop Learning Outcomes

- Recognize common principles of design thinking
- Reflect on the landscape of multiple literacies at your home institution
- Apply design thinking strategies to create a literacy-related prototype

Slides available: http://bit.ly/litexploration

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Sample Literacies

Data Literacy

"Data literacy is the ability to *comprehend*, *create*, and *communicate* data [...] Data literacy spans both qualitative and quantitative data, and is enabled by a broad range of data-related capabilities..." - DataLiteracy.ca

"[Science data literacy is] the knowledge and skills in collecting, processing, managing, evaluating, and using data for scientific inquiry. Although there are similarities in information literacy and digital literacy, science data literacy specifically focuses less on literature-based attributes and more on functional ability in data collection, processing, management, evaluation, and use." - Qin and D'Ignazio, 2010

Media Literacy

"Media literacy is the ability to ACCESS, ANALYZE, EVALUATE, CREATE, and ACT using all forms of communication. In its simplest terms, media literacy builds upon the foundation of traditional literacy and offers new forms of reading and writing. Media literacy empowers people to be critical thinkers and makers, effective communicators and active citizens." - National Association for Media Literacy Education

"Media Literacy is a 21st century approach to education. It provides a framework to access, analyze, evaluate, create and participate with messages in a variety of forms — from print to video to the Internet. Media literacy builds an understanding of the role of media in society as well as essential skills of inquiry and self-expression necessary for citizens of a democracy." - Center for Media Literacy

Digital Literacy

"Digital literacy is the constellation of knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary for thriving in a technology-saturated culture...the ability to access, analyze, create, reflect, and take action using a wide variety of digital tools, forms of expression and communication strategies." - Renee Hobbs

"To be digitally literate is to have access to a broad range of practices and cultural resources that you are able to apply to digital tools. It is the ability to make and share meaning in different modes and formats; to create, collaborate and communicate effectively and to understand how and when digital technologies can best be used to support these processes." - Cassie Hague and Sarah Payton, FutureLab

Activity 1: Empathize & Define

Select a sample literacy from the previous page. Take about five minutes to reflect on the questions below. Then, share your answers with a neighbor.

Reflection Questions

Who cares about this literacy at your institution? Which disciplines, campus units, or individuals may be invested?

Do any programs or initiatives related to this literacy already exist at your institution? If you're not sure, what steps could you take to find out?

What are some of the challenges associated with this literacy on your campus? For you or for others?

Activity 2: Ideate & Prototype

Scenario: Imagine that you are part of a working group that is developing a new [   ] literacy workshop series for undergraduate students. After the first few meetings, you're left feeling frustrated because the group hasn't made much progress. You realize that your colleagues each have very different ideas about the kinds of concepts and skills the workshops should involve. You suggest that before the next meeting, each group member take some time to write or draw their own way of representing this literacy.

Using the definitions on p. 2 as a starting point, create your own prototype representation for the literacy you chose in Activity 1. First, come up with as many approaches as possible (could you create a map, an outline, a chart, a new definition, or something else?). Then, on page 5., pick one of these approaches to build on further.

Alternative activity: Choose your own adventure! If this workshop has sparked other ideas, feel free to choose your own path. Consider the following questions as you sketch out your ideas:
- Which literacy are you exploring?
- Who is your audience?
- What challenge are you trying to address?

1. Ideation: use the area below to sketch as many ideas as possible:

Activity 2, Continued

2. Choose one of your sketches from the previous page and build on it further. Consider the following questions:
- *What do you want to convey about your literacy?*
- *Are there certain aspects you want to emphasize?*
- *How could you use this prototype to explain this literacy to a colleague?*

Questions for Further Iteration

Empathize
- Who is going to use this [thing]?
- What are they going to be able to do with it?
- How will it benefit them?
- Does it address their needs?

Define
- What specific problem are you trying to solve?
- Is a partial solution already available? Can an existing version be modified?
- What resources do you need to allocate to this project?
- Who is going to collaborate with you?
- What is the timeline?

Ideate
- What could the [thing] look like?
- How can you break it down into pieces?
- Are there alternative solutions?

Prototype
- Who needs to be involved in the prototyping?
- How are you going to use the prototype (affordances and constraints)?

Test
- Who will test this [thing] out?
- What outcomes are you expecting?
- When and how often are you going to test it?
- How is feedback going to be collected and used?

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https://lib.vt.edu/research-learning/digital-literacy.html