From Digital Literacy to Digital Wisdom

Michael J. Paulus, Jr.
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Seattle Pacific University

Building Bridges Technology Conference
Spokane, Wash., March 16, 2017
“there is a new, emerging, different form of life out there that the Digital Natives are creating for themselves … the one thing you can be absolutely sure of is that you ignore it at your peril!”

“Digital wisdom is a two-fold concept, referring both to wisdom arising from the use of digital technology … and to wisdom in the use of technology to enhance our innate capabilities.”
—Prensky, “From Digital Natives to Digital Wisdom” (2012)
“technologies invite or afford specific patterns of thought, behavior, and valuing; they open up new possibilities for human action and foreclose or obscure others.”

“our biggest challenge … is the job of figuring out what we will do with [emerging] technologies once we have them, and what they will do with us.”

—Shannon Vallor, *Technology and the Virtues* (OUP, 2016)
A Framework for Digital Literacy

IT Literacy
Information Literacy
Digital Participation
Digital Scholarship

A Framework for Digital Wisdom

- Attention
- Analysis
- Agency
Digital Skills Gap: Familiarity ≠ Facility

Sources: “Backgrounds and Beliefs of College Freshmen,” 2014, Higher Education Research Institute; Association of American Colleges and Universities Survey of Employers and College Students, 2015
Digital Ethics Gap

“there is little evidence in any age group of proactive ethics or exemplary citizenship. When subjects tell us that they avoid missteps, they do so principally out of fear of punishment.”


“In young people’s narratives about online life, we observed frequent moral and ethical blind spots … the thinking in which they engaged was often deeply self-focused—that is, what might I gain from a given choice?”

—Carrie James, *Disconnected: Youth, New Media, and the Ethics Gap* (MIT, 2014)
2014 Undergraduate Survey:

- 812 responses (24%)
- Value help accessing and using technology for academic work
- Desire help understanding impact of technology on academic, professional, and spiritual lives
Evolving Information Literacy

- Program review (2012)
- Scholarly Communications Librarian (2013)
- Learning and Technology Task Force (2013)
- Digital literacy class and professional development (2015-2016)

**GS 2950: DIGITAL WISDOM FOR WORK**
1-CREDIT COURSE DURING WINTER QUARTER 2016

- develop a personal mission statement and action plan for your career trajectory
- assess your technological skills
- strengthen your digital literacy

**TAKE THE CLASS ONLINE OR FACE-TO-FACE**!

*January 29th, 6-9 p.m. and January 30th, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.*

[Link to course information](spu.libguides.com/digitalwisdom)
Digital Literacy Design Challenge (2015)

Outcomes:

- Merged Teck Desk with Circulation Desk
- Development of a Digital Literacy Framework
- Deeper collaboration with writing curriculum and center
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information</th>
<th>Ø Reflect on IT needs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>Ø Adopt and use digital devices, applications, and services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literacy</td>
<td>Ø Ethical use of IT</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information</th>
<th>Ø Reflect on intentions, the nature of information, and information needs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literacy</td>
<td>Ø Discover, interpret, evaluate, manage, synthesize, and use information</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ø Ethical understanding and use of information</td>
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<tr>
<th>Digital Participation</th>
<th>Ø Reflect on digital identity and collaborative opportunities</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ø Participate in digital networks for learning and research</td>
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<td>Ø Ethical understanding of and participation in digital communities</td>
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<tr>
<th>Digital Scholarship</th>
<th>Ø Reflect on process of creation and production</th>
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<td>Ø Create and share academic and professional communications</td>
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<td>Ø Ethical understanding and practice of knowledge creation</td>
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Digital Literacy @ The SPU Library
Digital Literacy and Digital Education (2016)

- Integrating library and educational technology
- Digital Education Librarian position to link library instruction with faculty development
- Developing new programming to encourage innovation in teaching and scholarship
A Framework for Digital Wisdom

1. **Attention**: Reflection on identity, intentions, and integration

2. **Analysis**: Critical and careful selection

3. **Agency**: Action consistent with values of creation, community, and citizenship
Beyond Digital Dualism

- Technology is ancient and about extending human agency
- Technology is about augmentation and amputation
- New technologies (e.g., digital) will become common
- Digital wisdom will become wisdom for postdigital life