International ELINET Symposium 2018
"Literacy in the 21st Century: Participation – Inclusion – Equity".

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Section IX Digital literacy and language teaching

Chairs: Fabio Nascimbeni, Universidad Internacional de la Rioja (UNIR) and Jeroen Clemens, Windesheim University for Applied Sciences, Netherland

Tuesday, July 23, at 16.00–17.30   **Location:** Seminar Building / Room S 26

LITERACY CHANGES LIVES.

Digital literacy in a regular classroom

Presenter:
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Abstract:

The digitalization of the 21st century society exponentially grew the past decade alone. The current constant information flow asks for strong, old and new, information skills. Terms like "digital literacy" also entered the lower vocational school I work for, hand in hand with the problems the constant information flow can and already did cause.

That's why I chose to do some practical research. The students at a vocational school need to reach a certain basic level in – also digital - literacy which enables them to take care of themselves in today's society. (Practical) solutions to include this group therefore are a must. In the daily educational practice, we – my colleagues and I – noticed that our pupils often aren't able to live up to the digital 'demands' we expect them to, let alone to those future society will.

Therefore, the goal of my practical research was to discover the exact problem to eventually develop a plan to make our pupils (more) capable in making smarter decisions on the digital 'highway'. A group of seventy pupils filled in an existing survey (Ahlers et al.) on this subject. Next to that these students were observed doing an assignment on some basics in (digital) literacy and (therefore needed) information skills. Also, a group of teachers was being interviewed. It turned out our pupils start developing problems very early in the process; When it comes to information skills, significant mistakes are already being made. It also turned out that among our students problems got worse when it came to digital literacy. Old and new skills have to be combined and (our) teachers should be more trained on this important matter as well. Since then I, as a start, took part in developing different kinds of material / lessons / assignments to develop (digital) literacy skills accommodated to the 21st century.