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Authoring Project 2

Digital Divide and Digital Literacy

People are living in the technology’s world and they are able to do many things with the Internet. It has grown the potential of technology and digital divide’s demands since people started to use them as their main tools to do everything nowadays. There are some skills level that are required for making profit in business or having the most effective results in researching by using technology; besides, everyone can gain those skills by accessing into their smartphones, laptops and computer that connected to the Internet (Tolbert p. 209). That way, unlimited Internet access and the technology are the part of people’s live today. The research indicated that the way of using digital divide of people are related to their ages, their living styles and their habits.

According to the university of Illinois’s library, the digital literacy is about human’s ability with the digital technology. It is an effective way that people use digital technology to create, evaluate and recognize the information’s value; “The ability to use digital technology, communication tools or networks to locate, evaluate, use and create information” and “ The ability to understand and use information in multiple formats from a wide range of sources when it is presented via computers” (Illinois). Literacy includes the ability to read and interpret media, to reproduce data and images through digital manipulation, and to evaluate and apply new knowledge gained from digital environments” (Illinois).

For my first interview, I interviewed my 27 years old friend. He is also a current WSUV business student. He thought that it would be really hard for him and other students if there were no digital technology or Internet because he uses these tools for 80 to 90% for all his assignments and projects. Besides, technology has saved lots of time for him in researching, finding ideas or approaching new information. Also, the Internet helps him to connect to Angel and update his lectures and his assignments day by day; that way, he easily recognizes what he should do for the next two weeks. For me, it would be difficult to find these articles by myself without the Internet and digital technology.

With my second interview, I interviewed my 40 years old uncle. He is businessman and he uses his computer with the Internet most of the time. From his point of view, digital technology and the Internet are pretty important nowadays. They make human’ life and their business easier than the last ten or twenty years. However, he believed that it would be negative impact if people got addicted about using these tools in their daily activities. He is working for real estate and trading stock in the worldwide market. Digital technology and the Internet helped him immediately update the new status for real estate as well as stock market. Besides, he has two daughters who are current student at the University of Washington; that way, he is able to use Skype to talk to them when they have spare time. Also, his wife is still living in Georgia and he can easily make a conference call with Skype that allows his daughters, his wife and him to meet together at the same time. Software and Programs are needed to be creating to provide effectively outcome for using the digital media. Some of them are enhancing the business’s managements to increase productive process and improving the people’s communications (Rushkoff 134).

As my third interview, I interviewed my roommate’s 70 years old mom. She retired five years ago and has not used any Internet for her entire life. According to my observation, she normally cooks lots of food, does yard works and cleans the house when she stays in the US. Besides, she goes back to Cambodia during the US’s cold and raining seasons. As I asked her, she told me that it is just extremely normal for her to live without the Internet because she grew up with no digital environment. Plus, she usually goes to her nephews’ houses to hang out and play cards with them. This means that digital technology is not the requirement for living conditions as the situation of my roommate’s mom and older people.

With my forth interview, I interviewed my friend who is 17 years old. He is a current high school student at Fort Vancouver High School and he used his computer with the Internet as much as he can. The first reason of his digital technology consumption, he is playing lots of online games with his friends and random online people. Shooting and fighting games are his favorites game. Besides, he actually spent lots of money on these games to get exclusive items. In his opinion, it’s physically impossible to live without all the technology and the Internet access nowadays. Plus, he did not do any homework at home because he tried to do all his work during the school’s break. That way, he can spend more time with his games. Moreover, he actually stays up overnight during the weekend to achieve the new goals and levels in the games. Also, when the games’ servers go down, Yahoo and Facebook are the common place that I can find him. According to Dr. Victor C. Strasburger, a professor at the [University of New Mexico](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/organizations/u/university_of_new_mexico/index.html?inline=nyt-org) School of Medicine, “Kids are spending an extraordinary amount of time with media” and “We don’t really know what they pay attention to, what they don’t. We don’t know how it impacts their school performance, whether it impacts their school performance” (Perri). This is a problem that I found with lots high school students who are having similar issues with the digital environment like today.

For my final interview, I interviewed my parents. They are about 55 years old and both live in Vietnam. I had to ask them questions through Skype and listened to their answers without observing their actual activities. For my dad, he uses digital divide and the Internet for reading newspapers most of the time. Also, he uses to check his education department’s website everyday. For my mom, the only thing that she uses a computer for is Skype. From their point of views, the Internet and digital technology should be used as the assisting tools for human’s activities. People should have control and should not abuse the using habits of these the digital environments.

Since the digital divide and the Internet are created, people started to use them for their lives’ modernization. As a result, four out of five people that I interviewed are using the digital divides and the Internet. Nowadays, you will be left behind if you don’t have the Internet’s access. That way, the technology and digital’s world has set the new standard with new condition of live; digital divides will continue growing as long as they assist people in various life’s aspects.

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