Digital Literacy

Digital literacy is the ability to use information and communication technologies to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information. It requires cognitive and technical skills.

Barriers

- Computer use varies along socioeconomic and cultural lines
- New media and software take time to learn
- Contributing to online group discussions can be intimidating
- Technology breakdowns and related financial and time barriers
- Some learners need ongoing support and encouragement
- Assumed digital literacy (e.g., social media competency) does not account for required skills to use educational resources

Evidence-Based Strategies

- Emphasize digital inclusion by:
  - Enhancing digital literacy (support through technology forums, tutorship, social networking, and virtual dialogues)
  - Including support for under-served populations
- Create a sense of community, as social collaboration and interrelations enhance digital literacy
- Make the content more attractive by using a simple interface with intuitive navigation
- Pace the course appropriately and accessibly
- Foster self-learning and self-organization
- Provide tips and tricks for digital learning before and during the course

For more data and context, read the full report from ABLE Research Consultants.