

Title: **Digital literacy: what does this mean for educational development?**

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Abstract:

This paper is about educational development and the role of digital literacy in the work of educational developers

SEDA Values

Indicate which SEDA Values may be relevant to your proposal:

An understanding of how people learn		Scholarship, professionalism and ethical practice	X
Working and developing learning communities	x	Working effectively with diversity and promoting inclusivity	
Continuing reflection on professional practice	X	Developing people and processes	X

Session Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session, delegates will be able to:

- Define digital literacy and explain how it relates to our practice as educational developers
- Understand the strengths and weaknesses of current practice nationally and in their own institution
- Formulate suggestions for future development/ enhancement

Session Outline

Digital literacy is a global issue which is having a major impact on higher education in the UK. Not only are graduates expected to be digitally literate citizens ready for work in the digital information society, but so too academics are increasingly expected to have high levels of digital literacy to frame and inform their students' development. But how do academic staff view and develop their own digital literacy skills? For many the answer will lie in initial and continuing educational development activities which can both raise awareness and up-skill them.

With this changing context in mind, this paper explores the meaning and importance of digital literacy to educational developers across the sector on a strategic and practical level.

Drawing on JISC-funded work by SEDA and HEDG, and insights from other projects in the JISC Developing Digital Literacies Programme, the session will explore issues such as: the ways in which student learning and teaching practice are changing through digital technologies; the ways we as educational developers can contribute to enhancing the digital literacy of others; and the opportunities and barriers to developing both our own and others' digital literacy.

Our aim will be to share examples of good practice arising from the digital literacy projects, to lead a discussion on the place of digital literacy in educational development work and to gather suggestions and examples, to share beyond the session, for enhancement activities across the sector.

Session Activities

- Pre conference survey will inform the session
- Brief introduction and overview of background (5 mins)
- Review/ summary of key project and JISC Programme findings (7 mins)
- Group discussion organised using creative planning techniques from methods such as Ketso and OpenSpace to provide short answers addressing the following questions: (15 mins)
 - How do you and your institution understand digital literacy?
 - What are the current strengths and weaknesses of educational developers' approaches to digital literacy?
 - What issues have you encountered and how have these been overcome?
 - In what ways might we enhance the digital literacy of educational developers and other staff?

We will follow up the discussion using Twitter #digilitSEDA13 (and will collate discussion threads and publish through the SEDASIG)

- Conclusions/ implications (3 mins)

References

<http://jiscdesignstudio.pbworks.com> Developing Digital Literacies

<http://www.ketso.com>

<http://openspaceworld.com>