Digital Literacy
Industry Connections Activity Initiation Document (ICAID)
Version: 1.0, 1 September 2017
IC17-014-01 Approved by the IEEE-SASB 28 September 2017

Instructions

- Instructions on how to fill out this form are shown in red. It is recommended to leave the instructions in the final document and simply add the requested information where indicated.
- **Shaded Text** indicates a placeholder that should be replaced with information specific to this ICAID, and the shading removed.
- Completed forms, in Word format, or any questions should be sent to the IEEE Standards Association (IEEE-SA) Industry Connections Committee (ICCom) Administrator at the following address: industryconnections@ieee.org.
- The version number above, along with the date, may be used by the submitter to distinguish successive updates of this document. A separate, unique Industry Connections (IC) Activity Number will be assigned when the document is submitted to the ICCom Administrator.

1. **Contact**
Provide the name and contact information of the primary contact person for this IC activity. Affiliation is any entity that provides the person financial or other substantive support, for which the person may feel an obligation. If necessary, a second/alternate contact person’s information may also be provided.

**Name:** Melissa Sassi/Stephen Wyber  
**Email Address:** mesassi@microsoft.com/stephen.wyber@ifla.org  
**Phone:** +31 (0)6 38 36 91 27 +1-425-435-8370  
**Employer:** Microsoft/IFLA  
**Affiliation:** IEEE, MentorNations

2. **Participation and Voting Model**
Specify whether this activity will be entity-based (participants are entities, which may have multiple representatives, one-entity-one-vote), or individual-based (participants represent themselves, one-person-one-vote).

Individual based (drawing on expertise in the field, although clearly work with and through institutions will strengthen this)
3. **Purpose**

3.1. **Motivation and Goal**
Briefly explain the context and motivation for starting this IC activity, and the overall purpose or goal to be accomplished.

As more and more of the world’s population come online, the need to ensure that everyone has the possibility to develop the skills, knowledge, behaviours and confidence necessary to realise the potential of digital technologies becomes more pressing. While many will find their way easily in a digital world, many others (and not necessarily only older generations) will find this much harder. In much the same way basic literacy enables people to learn, communicate and create, digital literacy is an enabler of personal and community development. As such, digital literacy has been recognised as a duty of governments, both nationally and internationally to advance individual and community-level prosperity (socially, politically, economically).

The long-term goal of this work is to put in place tools that will help ensure that digital literacy receives the attention and investment it deserves in the context both of domestic and overseas development policies. By establishing a standardized definition and taxonomy, the articulation and coordination of efforts becomes more holistic and coordinated. By identifying best practices and making progress towards metrics, stakeholders and interested parties including governments, schools, the private sector, and other community anchors such as libraries can work to improve the effectiveness of their work in this area. What is the goal? Driving toward a more inclusive internet with people from all corners of the earth having an opportunity to be included in the digital economy.

3.2. **Related Work**
Provide a brief comparison of this activity to existing, related efforts or standards of which you are aware (industry associations, consortia, standardization activities, etc.).

There are a number of efforts to establish definitions of digital literacy, not necessarily under this name. Mozilla’s 21st Century Skills curriculum focuses not just on skills but the ability to use the Internet effectively. The DQ concept of the DQ Institute in Singapore also looks at higher level abilities. The OECD, in its PISA studies, has looked at web literacy, exploring students’ ability to find relevant information online (including studies of how effectively they search). The private sector has also invested strongly, with Microsoft playing a particularly active role across its Philanthropies team, Microsoft 4Afrika, as well as content developed by its Cloud and Enterprise organization that can be found in Lydia or edEx. Cisco is prominent in Europe. Library associations have looked to support digital literacy, notably in the US where the Public Library Association has produced curriculum materials. HP and Microsoft are also working with Digital Promise.

In overlapping areas, UNESCO has looked at potential measures of media and information literacy, while there are many tests of pure skills, such as those run by the ITU.
In addition to the private sector and work stemming from international organizations within the United Nations, governments have developed their own programs via their Ministries of Education (K-12 and upper education), as well as other entities within academia and beyond.

This is only a small handful of the vast amount of activities underway around the world – all with similar goals and objectives...digital inclusion of underserved communities.

3.3. Previously Published Material
Provide a list of any known previously published material intended for inclusion in the proposed deliverables of this activity.

Please see 3.2

3.4. Potential Markets Served
Indicate the main beneficiaries of this work, and what the potential impact might be.

While the final beneficiaries should be individuals and communities, the primary market is the institutions and entities who are both in contact with citizens who may need digital literacy skills, and have the possibility to do something about it. A first target; therefore, is governments (and development agencies) and international organisations both with a public interest mission to support growth, and those working specifically on new digital inclusion projects. A second is business itself, which, when it is focusing on market development, can gain a lot from developing a more digitally literate client base. Finally, it supports individual organisations, such as libraries, schools or community centres looking for more information on how to improve digital literacy.

This should be an open-source effort where digital literacy is seen as a human right for everyone everywhere, regardless of location and language skill.

4. Estimated Timeframe
Indicate approximately how long you expect this activity to operate to achieve its proposed results (e.g., time to completion of all deliverables).

Expected Completion Date: 09/2019

IC activities are chartered for two years at a time. Activities are eligible for extension upon request and review by ICCom and the IEEE-SA Standards Board. Should an extension be required, please notify the ICCom Administrator prior to the two-year mark.

5. Proposed Deliverables
Outline the anticipated deliverables and output from this IC activity, such as documents (e.g., white papers, reports), proposals for standards, conferences and workshops, databases, computer code, etc., and indicate the expected timeframe for each.
Initial collection and analysis of available definitions of digital literacy (October 2017)
Initial collection and analysis of available literature on evaluated digital literacy projects (October 2017 and ongoing)
Initial collection of metrics of digital literacy (October 2017)

Standardised definition of digital literacy (early 2018)
Analysis of applicability of existing metrics and evaluation tools to the standardized definition (April 2018)
Identification of terms needing to be defined as part of the taxonomy (April 2018)
Establish structure of portal for useful digital literacy resources (April 2018)

Initial report on definitions, taxonomy, and possible metrics of digital literacy, plus full launch of portal (Summer 2018). Identify test sites for digital literacy metrics in order to do before and after analyses in different contexts, including the development of standards.

Test out different metrics, refine analysis, continue to collect examples of good practice (Fall-Spring 2019).

Final report (Summer 2019).

6. **Funding Requirements**
Outline any contracted services or other expenses that are currently anticipated, beyond the basic support services provided to all IC activities. Indicate how those funds are expected to be obtained (e.g., through participant fees, sponsorships, government or other grants, etc.). Activities needing substantial funding may require additional reviews and approvals beyond ICCom.

Travel funding to be paid for by individual participants (unless grant funding available, for example, for developing country participants). Remote meetings to be used where possible.

7. **Management and Procedures**

7.1. **IEEE Sponsoring Committee**
Indicate whether an IEEE sponsoring committee of some form (e.g., an IEEE Standards Sponsor) has agreed to oversee this activity and its procedures.

*Has an IEEE sponsoring committee agreed to oversee this activity?:* No

If yes, indicate the sponsoring committee’s name and its chair’s contact information.

**Sponsoring Committee Name:** Committee Name
**Chair’s Name:** Full Name
**Chair’s Email Address:** who@where
**Chair’s Phone:** Number, including country code
Additional sponsoring committee information, if any.

7.2. **Activity Management**
If no IEEE sponsoring committee has been identified in 7.1 above, indicate how this activity will manage itself on a day-to-day basis (e.g., executive committee, officers, etc.).

Alongside regular meetings of those individuals involved in the project, regular calls between IEEE and co-proposers.

7.3. **Procedures**
Indicate what documented procedures will be used to guide the operations of this activity; either (a) modified baseline *Industry Connections Activity Policies and Procedures*, (b) Sponsor policies and procedures accepted by the IEEE-SA Standards Board, or (c) Working Group policies and procedures accepted by the Working Group’s Sponsor. If option (a) is chosen, then ICCom review and approval of the P&P is required. If option (b) or (c) is chosen, then ICCom approval of the use of the P&P is required.

The team will leverage standard IEEE Industry Connections P&P.

8. **Participants**

8.1. **Stakeholder Communities**
Indicate the stakeholder communities (the types of companies or other entities, or the different groups of individuals) that are expected to be interested in this IC activity, and will be invited to participate.

Melissa Sassi, Microsoft
Stephen Wyber, IFLA
Lead on 21st Century Skills at Mozilla
Cisco
OECD
UNESCO
IREX
ITU
DQ Institute
Public Library Association/ALA
Developing country representative?
People Centered Internet
1-2 Government Representatives (USAID? State? GIZ?)
World Bank
IEEE
WEF
Mastercard

8.2. **Expected Number of Participants**
Indicate the approximate number of entities (if entity-based) or individuals (if individual-based) expected to be actively involved in this activity.

10-15

8.3. **Initial Participants**
Provide a list of the entities or individuals that will be participating from the outset. It is recommended there be at least three initial participants for an entity-based activity, or five initial participants (each with a different affiliation) for an individual-based activity.

Use the following table for an entity-based activity:

Use the following table for an individual-based activity:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th>Employer</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Sassi</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mesassi@microsoft.com">mesassi@microsoft.com</a></td>
<td>Microsoft</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Wyber</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Stephen.wyber@ifla.org">Stephen.wyber@ifla.org</a></td>
<td>IFLA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>IREX</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Garrity</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Garrity.j@state.gov">Garrity.j@state.gov</a></td>
<td>US State Department</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Mozilla</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>OECD</td>
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To be confirmed as part of approval process in partnership with IEEE.