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A Strategic Partnership to Understand the Ecosystem, Adaptability and Transfer of Digital Skills - a Focus on the Educational System



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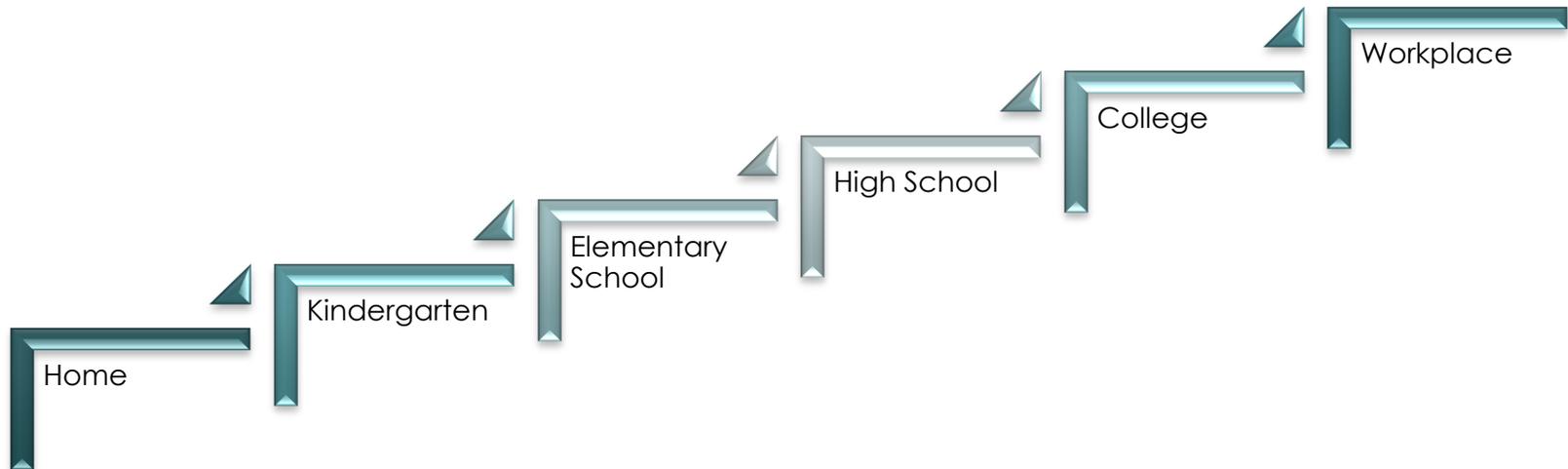
Canada

Introduction

- Digital culture is all around us.
- Many adult Canadians do not have sufficient digital skills...
 - they are denied the opportunity to fully participate in today's digital economy (SSHRC, 2010).
- The need to develop digital skills is widely accepted...
 - but their structure and the modeling of their acquisition at various periods in life represents a largely underdeveloped area of study.

Goal of the Study

- Identify and measure the acquisition and transfer of digital skills



- **Digital divide**

Relationship between the representations of the digital and social inclusion among young people and adults (Vozdoz, 2010)

Young people who seem to have good technical skills or significant generic skills, struggle to develop them in the workplace.

What role do schools and colleges play in the process of developing digital skills that can be transferred from one life stage to another?

The Study

- Partnership between experts from different levels of pedagogical intervention
- 1st year: Profile of digital skills
 - Identify critical transition points in life
- DELPHI method
 - Experts in areas of digital knowledge and application ... we looked at the context of education

The Study

- Experts identified via snowball sampling
 - from public school system
 - from postsecondary

How do you define digital skills?

How did you develop your own digital competency? What digital skills are needed to excel in school/college? What digital skills should one expect to develop towards the end of high school/college?

What digital skills are actually developed in school/college?

- Emergent thematic categories
(Miles & Huberman, 1994)

Findings

How do you define digital skills?

Digital skills can be defined by :

1. one's ability to use ICTs
2. one's ability to adapt positively to challenges during use

“The abilities you have that able you to work with various technologies, with numbers and data”

Findings

How do you define digital skills?

Digital skills can be defined by:

1. one's ability to use ICTs
2. one's ability to adapt positively to challenges during use

“It's important that people be open-minded towards new technologies and view the ever-changing digital world positively”

Findings

What digital skills are needed to excel in school/college?

What digital skills should one expect to develop towards the end of high school/college?

What digital skills are actually developed in school/college?

What should be developed:
Technical and analytical competencies

“My students benefit from using different kinds of technologies since we often work on projects ... writing papers using Word, preparing presentations using PowerPoint, communicate using Outlook or Clic”

Findings

What digital skills are needed to excel in school/college?

What digital skills should one expect to develop towards the end of high school/college?

What digital skills are actually developed in school/college?

What should be developed:
Technical and analytical competencies

"I want my students to realize that when they are online at home, they need to practice responsible online habits just like they would in class"

Conclusion

- Digital skills = Ability to use ICTs and adapt positively to challenges during use
- Digital skills needed to succeed in a digital world are not necessarily the ones developed in school and college.

Public school and college educators need to focus on the development of a more complete set of digital skills in students.

Conclusion

- Digital skills = Ability to use ICTs and adapt positively to challenges during use
- Digital skills needed to succeed in a digital world are not necessarily the ones developed in school and college.

Educators need to focus more on the development of analytical competencies, not only technical competencies