unesco
Institute for
Lifelong Learning

Webinar: 'Leveraging Technologies for Literacy'

Global Alliance for Literacy within the Framework of Lifelong Learning (GAL)

Tuesday, 23 April 2024, from 13:00 to 14:30 (CEST – local time Paris, France)

Languages: English and French (simultaneous interpretation)

M2020/Shutterstock.com

Education 2030

Background

On Tuesday 23 April 2024, the UNESCO Institute of Lifelong Learning (UIL), in its role as the secretariat of the Global Alliance for Literacy within the Framework of Lifelong Learning (GAL), will organize a webinar on **'Leveraging Technologies for Literacy'**.

In an increasingly digitalized world, the integration of technology has become imperative for enhancing the quality and effectiveness of literacy programmes tailored to both youth and adults. This transformative synergy not only holds the potential to revolutionize how literacy is taught and learned, but also offers a gateway to inclusivity. Yet, a survey of member countries of the Global Alliance for Literacy within the Framework of Lifelong Learning (GAL) found in 2020 that the majority of programmes used primarily printed learning materials, while slightly over half used digital devices and software applications. Additionally, online platforms like YouTube were reported to be regularly utilized, along with e-textbooks. However, a significant portion of respondents also reported using audio tapes and radio, while some incorporated television and a few relied on alternative media such as video projectors.

With the recent developments in Generative artificial intelligence (AI), UNESCO has emphasized that learners will still need sound foundational knowledge and skills to maximize the benefits of such tools. Foundational literacy and numeracy skills will remain key for education in the future.[1]

UNESCO has been at the forefront of leveraging technology to advance its mission of fostering global peace, cooperation and sustainable development. With a profound commitment to harnessing the transformative power of technology for the betterment of humanity, UNESCO has consistently striven to bridge the digital divide, promote digital literacy, and safeguard cultural heritage in an increasingly interconnected world. From championing open-access educational resources to fostering digital innovation in education and literacy in particular, UNESCO's work on integrating technology into education encompasses a broad spectrum of initiatives aimed at shaping a more inclusive, equitable, and knowledge-driven global society. The UNESCO-led Global Education Coalition (GEC) and GAL promote the effective use of technology in literacy instruction and learning through the Digital Competencies for Literacy Educators Initiative. The initiative equips youth and adult educators with digital skills through training modules.

This webinar is an opportunity for literacy stakeholders from GAL countries to exchange knowledge on promising policies and programmes using technology and other digital tools for literacy learning and instruction.

Representatives and partners from GAL member countries and national stakeholders, as well as other collaborators engaged in literacy programme development and implementation, alongside researchers and experts in literacy leveraging technology, will participate in the webinar. The objectives of this webinar are to:

- share promising examples of literacy programmes and opportunities integrating digital technologies and tools across diverse contexts;

---

[1] Miao, F., & Holmes, W. 2023. *Guidance for generative AI in education and research*. Paris, UNESCO. Available at: < https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000386693 >

- reflect on the potential opportunities and challenges of such tools; and

- offer recommendations on literacy delivery facilitated by technology.

What is the Global Alliance for Literacy (GAL)? GAL was established in 2016 to advance global literacy efforts and address challenges in promoting literacy around the world. Today, the alliance comprises 30 countries[2] strongly committed to improving youth and adult literacy, with a particular focus on disadvantaged and marginalized communities in GAL countries. GAL's work is guided by the GAL Strategy 2020–2025, which focuses on five areas to advance literacy and numeracy: (1) policy and planning; (2) equity; (3) innovation; (4) data; and (5) partnerships. The strategic goal concerning innovation recognizes the importance of the use of technology for promoting inclusion and quality literacy and numeracy provision.

The GAL Secretariat can be reached via email at uil-galsecretariat@unesco.org.

---

[2] Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, People's Republic of China, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Kingdom of Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Sierra Leone and South Sudan.

Agenda

23 April 2024, 13:00 – 14:30 (Central European Summer Time)	
13:00 – 13:10	**Opening session** **Moderator:** Ms Rakhat Zholdoshalieva, Team Leader, Quality Learning Ecosystems, UIL **Welcome remarks:** Ms Isabell Kempf, UIL Director
13:10 – 13:50	**Session 1: National initiatives on integrating technologies and digital tools** **Moderator:** Mr Tidiane Sall, Project Officer, UNESCO Dakar Office • National initiative on training literacy professionals in Morocco: A case of IFMA (Training Institute for Literacy Professions): Ms Tifitri El Asri, Head of department for capacity building, National Agency for the Fight against Illiteracy (ANLCA), Morocco • Technologies for literacy: An Indonesian experience and learning: Mr Iwan Syahril, Director General of Early Childhood Education, Primary Education, and Secondary Education, Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology, Indonesia • Integrating technologies into Senegalese literacy programmes: Mr Dame Seck, Educational inspector, Direction of Literacy and National Languages, Ministry of National Education, Senegal • Best practices of leveraging ICT for Learning of National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), India: Mr Rajiv Kumar Singh, Director (Academic), NIOS
13:50 – 14:15	**Session 2: Research and development perspectives on technology's impact and support on literacy** **Panel discussion** **Moderator:** Mr Gunawan Zakki, National Professional Officer, UNESCO Jakarta Office • Leveraging Edtech to support literacy for youth and adults: Centering learner needs; Ms Jen Vanek, Director of Digital Learning and Research, EdTech Center, World Education, USA • Phone-based learning improving literacy in families in rural Zambia: Mr Jacob Nshimbi, Professor, Department of Psychology, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zambia, Lusaka, Zambia • Media and Information Literacy in the era of AI: Ms Sangeeta Mahapatra, Research Fellow, German Institute for Global and Area Studies, Germany • Harnessing potential of partnerships for digital literacy and numeracy in low-resource contexts: Ms Shubhra Mittal, Head of Government Partnerships and Programmes, Khan Academy, India
14:15 – 14:25	**Questions and answers** **Moderator:** Ms Rakhat Zholdoshalieva, Team Leader, Quality Learning Ecosystems, UIL
14:25 - 14:30	**Summary and closing remarks** Ms Rakhat Zholdoshalieva, Team Leader, Quality Learning Ecosystems, UIL

UNESCO – a global leader in education

Education is UNESCO's top priority because it is a basic human right and the foundation for peace and sustainable development. UNESCO is the United Nations' specialized agency for education, providing global and regional leadership to drive progress, strengthening the resilience and capacity of national systems to serve all learners and responding to contemporary global challenges through transformative learning, with special focus on gender equality and Africa across all actions.

The Global Education 2030 Agenda

UNESCO, as the United Nations' specialized agency for education, is entrusted to lead and coordinate the Education 2030 Agenda, which is part of a global movement to eradicate poverty through 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Education, essential to achieve all of these goals, has its own dedicated Goal 4, which aims to **"ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all."** The Education 2030 Framework for Action provides guidance for the implementation of this ambitious goal and commitments.

unesco

United Nations
Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization

Education 2030

Stay in touch

✉ uil@unesco.org

🌐 www.uil.unesco.org

🐦 @UIL

f **Facebook** @uilunesco

UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning
Feldbrunnenstraße 58
20148 Hamburg
Germany

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Sustainable Development Goals