

## Why join the TLC

- You work in a library, nonprofit, school, or other organization providing public computer centers or other community technology services
- You are interested in building digital literacy skills in the population you serve
- You want to network with others involved in digital literacy work
- You are interested in sharing curriculum for teaching technology literacy skills
- You are interested in digital inclusion and want to collaborate with others on policy direction

## How to Join

Participants of the Technology Literacy Collaborative meet regularly to discuss trends, events, resources and partnerships regarding Digital Inclusion. Meetings are scheduled at our member sites. Please check our website for meeting dates and locations.

Everyone is welcome.

For More Information:

**Web:** [www.tlc-mn.org](http://www.tlc-mn.org)

**Email:** [info@tlc-mn.org](mailto:info@tlc-mn.org)

**Twitter:** [TLC\\_MN](https://twitter.com/TLC_MN)



Ravi Redi teaching a class on online job searching (courtesy of CTEP)

## PROMOTING DIGITAL INCLUSION



TLC is a network of Digital Inclusion supporters committed to:

- Sharing best practices
- Providing or advocating for technology literacy skills and access
- Promoting collaborative efforts

[www.tlc-mn.org](http://www.tlc-mn.org)

# What is Digital Inclusion?

Digital Inclusion is the process of providing the necessary skills and access that all individuals must have to participate in the economic, educational, civic, and social activities of a technology based society.



Laura Smith teaching users at the Employment Action Center (courtesy of CTEP)

## ABCs of Digital Literacy

**A—Access:** Proper hardware (this is most often computers or adaptive equipment), software and connection to the internet

**B—Basic Training:** Ensuring that communities are technologically literate, especially since many services have moved online

**C—Content:** Ensuring that online content is relevant, culturally appropriate, reaches underserved communities and can be produced by all stakeholders.

## Doesn't everyone have Internet Access?

- Only 23% of Twin Cities metro households with incomes under \$25,000 report having Internet access in their homes. <sup>1</sup>
- Over 98% of households with incomes between \$100,000 and \$150,000 have internet access. <sup>1</sup>
- African Americans and Latinos use the internet at significantly lower rates than European Americans. <sup>2</sup>
- College graduates are 31% more likely to have high speed broadband internet in their homes than high school graduates. <sup>3</sup>
- Adults aged 18-29 are more than twice as likely to have high speed broadband internet in their homes as adults 65 and over. <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *The 2007 MN Internet Study: Tracking the Progress of Broadband.* Center for Rural Policy and Development, 2008

<sup>2</sup> *Demographics of Internet Users.* Pew Internet and American Life Project, 2009.

<sup>3</sup> *Home Broadband Adoption.* Pew Internet & American Life Project, 2009

## Why it Matters

### Developing a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workforce

- Increasingly companies only accept online job applications for jobs posted on their websites.
- The ability to do basic computer skills such as sending an email or word processing are becoming increasingly mandatory in the workplace.

### Addressing the Achievement Gap in Education

- Schools are moving towards web-based portals to access assignments and communicate grades and school news.

### Connecting to Community Resources

- Government services such as unemployment benefits and immigration services have moved online
- The internet has become the main source of information for resources like housing, health, food assistance, childcare and transportation.

“Knowing how to read is no longer sufficient to be ‘literate’ in the 21st Century. Basic literacy must be supplemented with digital literacy.”

-FCC commissioner Mignon L. Clyburn, addressing America's Broadband Summit March 9, 2010