Building Digital Literacy through Exploration and Curation

We (Ann Hill Duin, UMN; Jason Tham, Texas Tech; Isabel Pedersen, Ontario Tech U) invite you to join us in collaborative exploration of **Building Digital Literacy through Exploration and Curation.** The primary objective of this exploratory study is increased understanding of student development of digital literacy as a result of examining, contributing, and/or curating technological artifacts at **The Fabric of Digital Life** (https://fabricofdigitallife.com/), an internationally-renowned digital research repository that includes articles, images, videos, and media on wearables, carryables, implantables, ingestibles, embeddables, and roboticals.

As part of a course module or assignment, students might
- **Examine**: learn to explore existing content through artifacts;
- **Contribute**: learn to archive single items (media representations) and understand existing keywords meta data; and/or
- **Curate**: learn to archive collections of media representations related to a theme. Here they develop/identify a novel set of keywords, applicable to the collection.

During Spring 2019, we developed and pilot tested instructional materials to guide students in learning a common language of classification to ground their understanding of technical emergence. Students in technical and professional writing courses developed curated collections as part of short (1 week) to longer (4 week) assignments. Students were thrilled to see their collections published on the Fabric site!

If you agree to participate,
- we will share the instructional units to use for student exploration and/or possible curation of collections on emerging technologies;
- you share with us the course, learning objectives, assignment and timeline for your specific exploration or development of collections;
- you invite students to share their exploration and/or curation work and to complete a short survey on how this work has influenced their understanding of digital literacy; and
- you provide a short reflection on this work and its impact on building student understanding of digital literacy.

You also may participate in bi-weekly discussions with both us and other instructors about the impact of this work on building student understanding of digital literacy.

Thank you for considering the possibility of integrating exploration and curation of emerging technologies as part of your upcoming Fall 2019 teaching. Please share questions. We hope to learn of your interest by **August 15, 2019**.

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Building Digital Literacy through Exploration and Curation
Multi-institutional research that revolves around a particularly pressing issue and/or explores innovative curricula and teaching methods

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Project Abstract

We face a digital literacy crisis: people consume an ever growing range of immersive technologies while largely unaware of their lack of control over the impact such devices and processes have on their lives. As technical communication students are designers and users of digital products, it is most imperative to foster their development of an expanded understanding of digital literacy. While technological literacy (Hovde & Renguette, 2017) and coding literacy (Duin & Tham, 2018) address challenges surrounding the teaching of tools and content management standards (e.g., DITA), we lack instructional materials that focus on implications stemming from immersive technologies and issues regarding digital safety, rights, identity, and privacy. Thus, we propose an innovative direction: to create instructional materials for instructor and student use of the *"Fabric" of Digital Life* repository (https://fabricofdigitallife.com/). Instructors across a variety of courses will be invited to use these materials for student exploration and/or curation of collections in this repository that will focus on emerging technologies and digital literacy implications. We will analyze instructional materials, assignments, student and instructor discussions, reflections, and survey responses using qualitative thematic analysis to examine the impact of such exploration and curation on building digital literacy.