Preventing all teachers for digital literacies: Field notes from a teacher education course

The ability to communicate and to collaborate with others using online tools, and to create and share content with online audiences rests upon digital literacy skills, which are vital to full civic and economic participation in our networked society. Although policies and curriculum standards worldwide advocate for incorporating digital literacy instruction in schools, research reveals that some teachers feel ill-prepared to enact such instruction. Though teachers report consuming online content and using social media, they often do not consider themselves digital producers.

This presentation highlights a master’s level education course that was designed to address this problem. Assignments provide teachers with experiences as learners and as creators, using digital literacies. Teachers who are preservice and inservice engage in a variety of activities that give them practice with a range of digital literacies. Through these experiences, teachers build knowledge about the opportunities and challenges that are available for young people in online environments, and reflect on the potential applications for classroom instruction. Examples from the classroom will be shared, so that attendees may consider the use of these examples within their own work.