Promoting Digital Fluency On Campus

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Objectives

• **Acknowledge** that we have a problem
• **Identify** which gap(s) we're talking about
• **Recognize** the need of a solution
• **Identify** essential skills that could comprise a 'digital literacy' program (**WHAT to teach**)  
• **Identify** effective ways to train students, faculty and staff in those skills (**HOW to teach it**)  
• **Provide** concrete suggestions and recommendations on how this issue could be addressed in the context of FAU
"Something is clearly wrong when only 11% of business leaders — compared to 96% of chief academic officers — believe that graduates have the requisite skills for the workforce."

Source: https://hbr.org/2014/10/the-real-revolution-in-online-education-isnt-moocs
There is a gap

Or maybe more than one...

1. GENERATIONAL Skills Gap
2. TECHNOLOGICAL Skills Gap
3. INEQUALITY Skills Gap

"You know, Dad, you do a darn good job. You should let me record you sometime, and I'll podcast you on my website. Just a thought."

There is a *massive* digital fluency divide between *students* and post-secondary education *faculty*.

- Student populations are *digital natives*, while their professors, typically, are not.

- “You can’t teach what you don’t know.”
GENERATIONAL Skills Gap

- Device ownership – college students (2014)

  90%: laptop
  47%: tablet
  86%: smartphone

Source: https://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/ss14/ERS1406.pdf
TECHNOLOGICAL Skills Gap

There is a gap between the digital skills educators currently possess and those they should possess.

• In a world where skills have a half-life of 2.5 to 5 years, leaders need constant development.

Source: https://documents.dupress.deloitte.com/HCTrends2014
There is a wide spectrum between the digital skill levels of all college students, known as “skills inequality”.

• University students possess some digital skills, but to varying degrees.
• We should level the playing field and incorporate learning that all students can benefit from, instead of having to cater to the weakest skillset.

Source: https://documents.dupress.deloitte.com/HCTrends2014
• Promote *digital fluency* efforts in a broad and extensive way.

• Teach *core digital skills* using the most appropriate tools and techniques.

• Engage *everyone* (faculty, students, and staff)
Core digital skills

Attention
Documents
Communication
Security
Platforms
Search & Research
Project Management
Digital Etiquette

Source: http://www.grovo.com/
Core digital skills

• **Focus and Attention Management**

Learn and practice strategies to filter out surrounding “noise”, focus on a task at hand, and give a lesson, project or learning experience your full attention.

Core digital skills

• Document Creation, Collaboration & Management

Become fluent in *creating* digital documents, *sharing* them with others, *annotating* them as necessary, and then *locating* them at a later date.

Core digital skills

• Communication

Master digital communication skills across different media, e.g., email, instant messaging, and social media.

Source: http://www.grovo.com/
• Security & Privacy

Learn how to protect our personal information and our privacy using state-of-the-art security measures (and a healthy dose of common sense).

Source: http://www.grovo.com/
Core digital skills

• Platform Flexibility

Learn how to competently navigate across different devices, platforms and operating systems.

Source: http://www.grovo.com/
Core digital skills

• Search & Research

Learn research skills "beyond Google" and acquire the critical skills necessary to:

– access specific information quickly and effectively

– be able to determine whether an online item is fact, fiction, or fantasy.

Source: http://www.grovo.com/
Core digital skills

• Project Collaboration & Management

Learn strategies to improve time, course, and schedule management in collaborative projects.

Adopt best practices and tools to manage workflow.

Source: http://www.grovo.com/
Core digital skills

- Digital Etiquette ("netiquette")

Understand the rules of the road for communicating in a digital environment.

This includes:

- understanding the risks of being on various social media platforms
- watching for online stalkers
- digital reputation management
- tackling the online rumor mill.

Source: http://www.grovo.com/
How to teach digital literacy?

A viable alternative

• *Customizable* training using a *microlearning* approach.  
  
  [Example: Grovo]
My experience with Grovo

- Signed up for a 14-day trial earlier this year
- Explored their programs and modules
- Got acquainted with Dashboard
- Created teams, customized training programs, assignments, deadlines, etc.
- Took several courses
- My conclusion?
  - It works!
Take-home message

FAU should promote broad and extensive initiatives to address the digital fluency divide between students and faculty and strive to become the go-to place for mastering digital skills.
Final remarks

- Let's start a conversation on how to promote digital fluency in the context of FAU.
- Concrete suggestions and recommendations are welcome!