Digital literacy and technology adoption

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Digital literacy

• “digital literacy defines those capabilities which fit an individual for living, learning and working in a digital society”

JISC (2011)
The seven elements of digital literacies

- **Media literacy**
  Critically read and creatively produce academic and professional communications in a range of media

- **Information literacy**
  Find, interpret, evaluate, manage and share information

- **Digital scholarship**
  Participate in emerging academic, professional and research practices that depend on digital systems

- **Communications and collaboration**
  Participate in digital networks for learning and research

- **Career & identity management**
  Manage digital reputation and online identity

- **Learning skills**
  Study and learn effectively in technology-rich environments, formal and informal

- **ICT literacy**
  Adopt, adapt and use digital devices, applications and services

(JISC, 2014)
Digital humanities

- Increase in availability and use of modern technology in the digital humanities has been widely explored in the last ten years.
- Domain-specific differences between humanities and scientific researchers in their information seeking and other behaviours, and uses.
- Influenced by analogue or digitised surrogate nature of the research objects in humanities, and the practices of humanities researchers, which are frequently around lone research.
Digital humanities

• Research indicates that humanists
  – welcome technology when it speeds up workflow
  – rely heavily on informal peer networks
  – primarily access monographs, libraries and private collections
  – search by browsing and citation chasing,
  – are exploratory researchers
Tool development

- There have been significant efforts in the development of robust software tools which allow the interrogation of digital musical artefacts, which include written (notated) music, digital audio, or contextual texts such as metadata.
Tool development

“until analytical tools and services are more sophisticated, robust, transparent, and easy to use for the motivated humanities researcher, it will be difficult to attract a broad base of interest within the humanities community.”

Borgman (2009)
Digital literacy and technology adoption

- Skills need constant development to reflect speed of technological change
- Attitudes towards ‘digital’ informed by importance of materiality and existing practices
- Better understanding of technology may widen research questions
- Technology development informed by user information needs
- Importance of researcher development and ongoing library support
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- **Communications and collaboration**: Participate in digital networks for learning and research.
- **Digital scholarship**: Participate in emerging academic, professional and research practices that depend on digital systems.
- **Career & identity management**: Manage digital reputation and online identity.
- **Learning skills**: Study and learn effectively in technology-rich environments, formal and informal.
- **ICT literacy**: Adopt, adapt and use digital devices, applications and services.

(JISC, 2014)