



Doing Online Relearning through Information Skills (DORIS): A Mutual Shaping Perspective for Information Literacy Research and Practice

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Introduction Snapshots

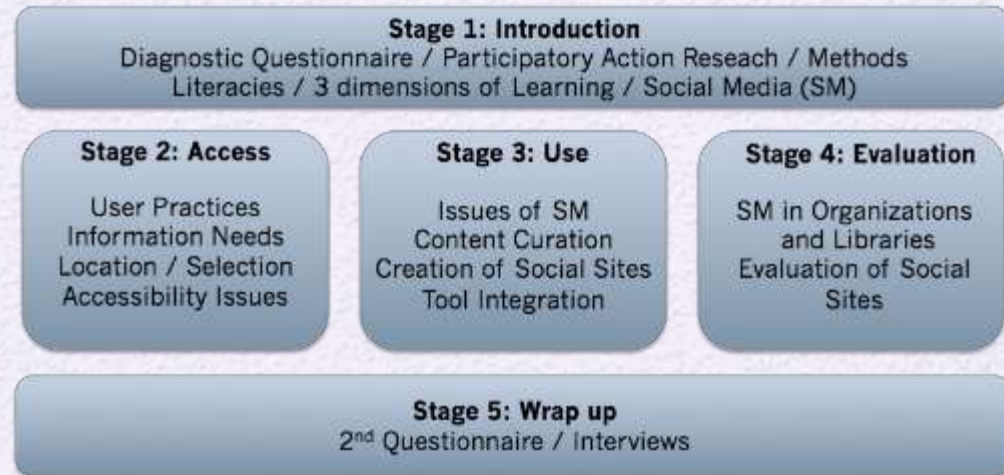
- This PhD study deals with the integration of social media in a learning experience and the roles that information literacy, digital literacy, and new literacies may play in such integration.
- Pilot and final empirical studies already took place
- The methodological approach used is participatory action research (PAR) and following this approach the research and methodological framework 'Doing Online Relearning through Information Skills' (DORIS) was developed [1].



DORIS as a research framework

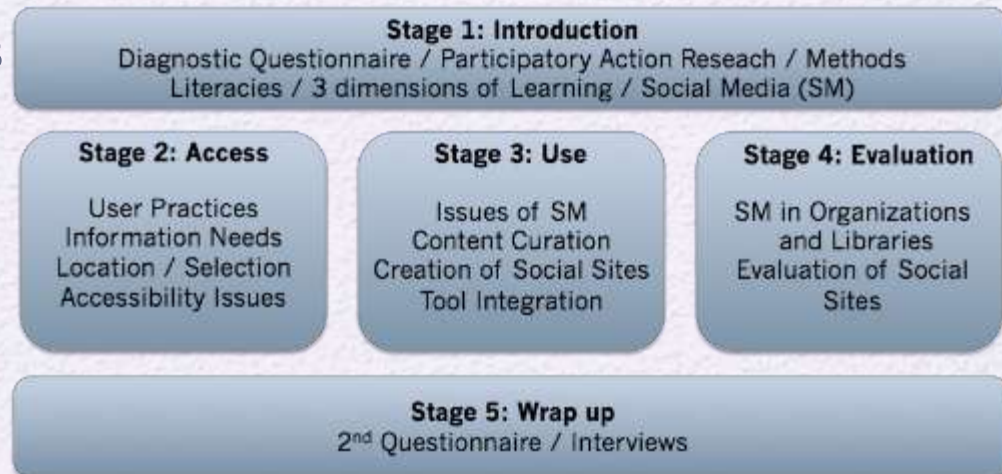
Learning interventions: activities, and assignments, structured in 5 stages:

- 1) Introduction: research structure, main concepts & methods, and mediates a common understanding of the conceptual tools that are going to be used;
- 2) Access: deals with user practices, information needs, location and selection, accessibility issues.
Assignment 1: 'reflect upon your practices as a social media user'.



DORIS as a research framework

- 3) Use: its topics are, issues of social media, content curation, creation of social media sites, tool integration. Assignment 2: 'create a social media site'.
- 4) Evaluation: deals with the use of social media in organizations and the evaluation of social media sites. Assignment 3: 'evaluate an existing social media site and revisit Assignment 2' (cognitive dissonance, hence 'relearning').
- 5) Wrap-up: includes final reflections together with the completion of questionnaires and interviews.



Research Questions

- What significant issues, challenges and opportunities emerge when social media are integrated into learning environments in higher education?
 - a) How do students' experience learning when they are engaged in a learning activity that integrates social media?
 - b) In what ways are students' engagement dependent upon their literacies?
 - c) In what ways do learning, literacies and social media mutually shape each other?



Data Collection Methods

- a diagnostic questionnaire at the beginning of the study,
- a follow-up questionnaire and semi-structured interviews at the end;
- other data collection instruments include:
 - a blog, which was used as a content and interaction hub, thus collecting all learning materials and the forums.
 - Participants' forum messages and assignments



Epistemological Assumptions and Main Theories

- Knowledge is created through socialization [2], [3] it can be discovered [4], as people possess tacit knowledge [5]. Practitioners are capable of generating personal theories by systematically studying their own practice [6].
- The most important concepts used in this study are information literacy [7], [8], [9], digital literacy [10], [11], and new literacies [12], [13], [14].
- The term literacies (plural) is used as container for the three concepts mentioned above.
- The main theories supporting research are: constructivist, blended, and problem based learning; the three dimensions of learning (cognitive, social, and emotional) [15]; and affinity spaces [16].

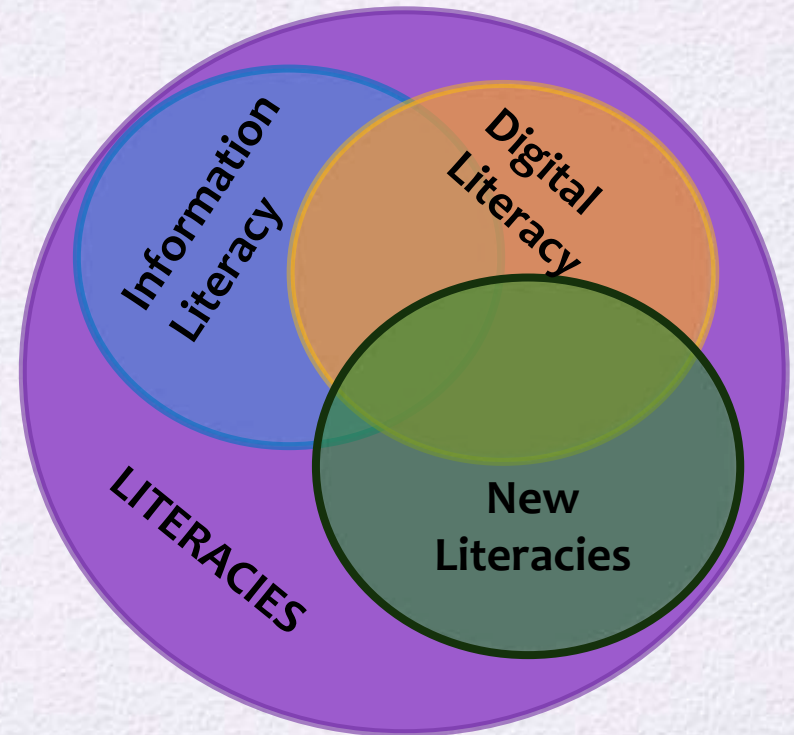


Why all these literacies are handled separately?

Instead of saying 'multiliteracies', 'transliteracies', and so on...

Engagement is bound to be diverse, consider the following cases:

- Information literate participants may have challenges with technology used.
- So-called 'digital natives' may have issues of: focus, following instructions, being critical, seeking or evaluating information (information literacy skills, not digital).
- Both kinds of participants might have different challenges associated with 'new literacies'.



Mutual Shaping of Learning, Literacies, and Social Media

A matter of perspective

- Mutual shaping perspective means that learning, literacies, and social media are conceived as elements that mutually shape one another. It is opposed to the idea of ‘technological determinism’.
- It allows to understand how technology might affect social media user practices and how these practices may affect the way technology is implemented into learning contexts.
- Implementing social media might drive the planning and characteristics of a learning experience, but the learning purpose will change the ways technology is being used.



Mutual Shaping of Learning, Literacies, and Social Media

Early data analysis, via content analysis

- This is one of the most important parts of this research: the findings in relation to all research questions will converge on the idea of mutual shaping.
- Participants agreed that these elements mutually shape one another, thus partly confirming one of the main ideas of this research.
- “today everything can be related, through social media you can make a topic of interest known. In fact, in this module we have demonstrated it, in this learning experience we have been demonstrating it”.
- “they are mutually shaped because through one of them you can reach the other ones”. “they are all part of a process”.



Conclusions... so far...

- Attempt to empirically determine how exactly this mutual shaping relationship occurs, as there are different 'living dialectics' [18] playing a role. These living dialectics consist of:
- Usual dialectics between the empirically researched and the related literature;
- contraposition of participants' perspectives from both pilot and final study, because of the cyclical nature of PAR [19].
- Tension between pilot and final studies from the researcher perspective, to achieve a reflection on his own practice. Thus generating a personal and systematic theory [6].



Conclusions... so far...

- Research contributions to information literacy research and practice? Enrich ‘technologically mediated learning’ investigations, information literacy programs, and their pedagogies.
- Powerful theories: three dimensions of learning and affinity spaces.
- Intriguing epistemological assumptions.
- PAR and DORIS provide structure and an example of instructional design.
- During analysis, the exact roles that literacies play in this type of learning experience are expected to emerge.



Many thanks for your attention!!

Questions, comments, suggestions?

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Doing Online
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