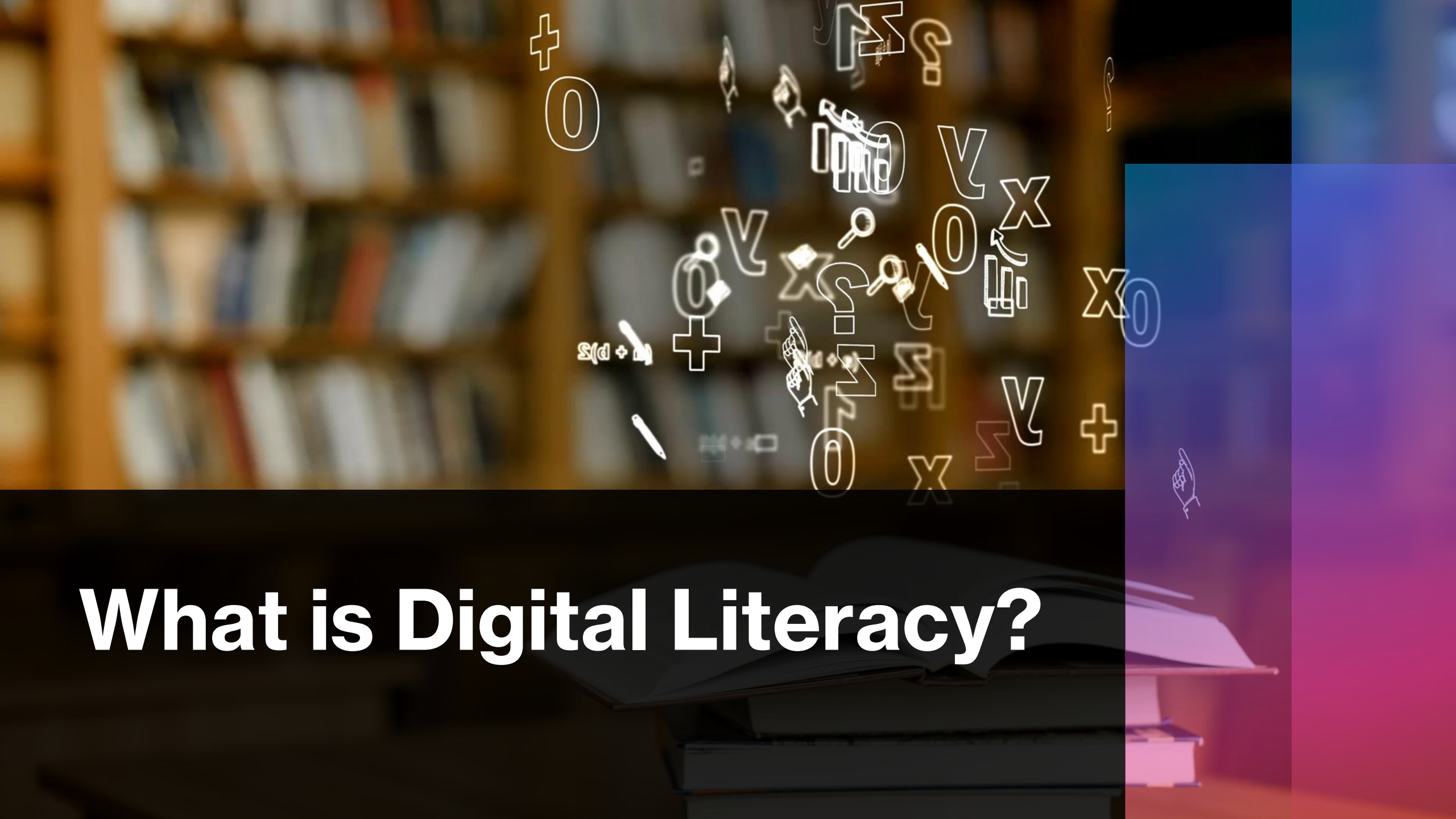
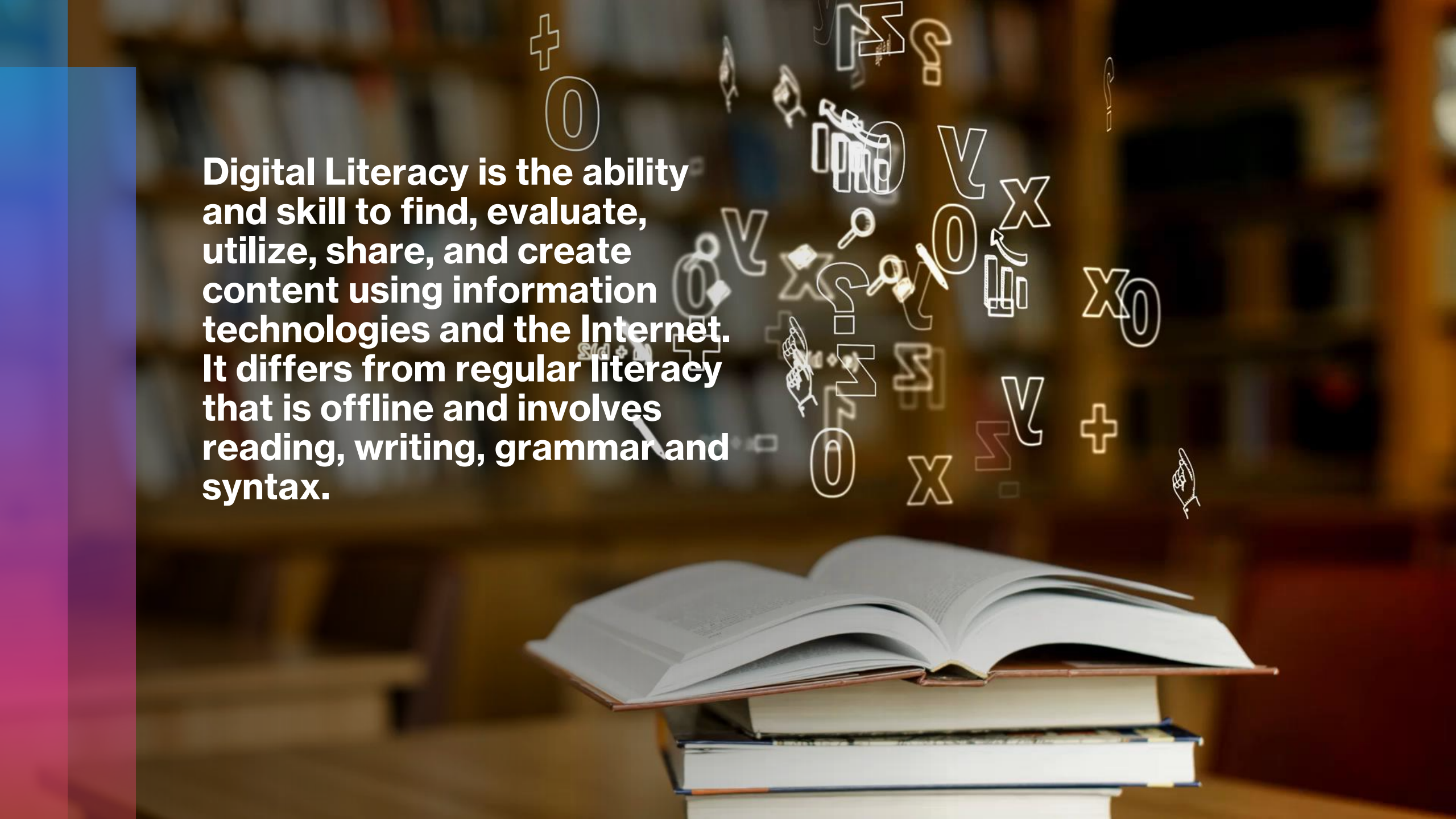
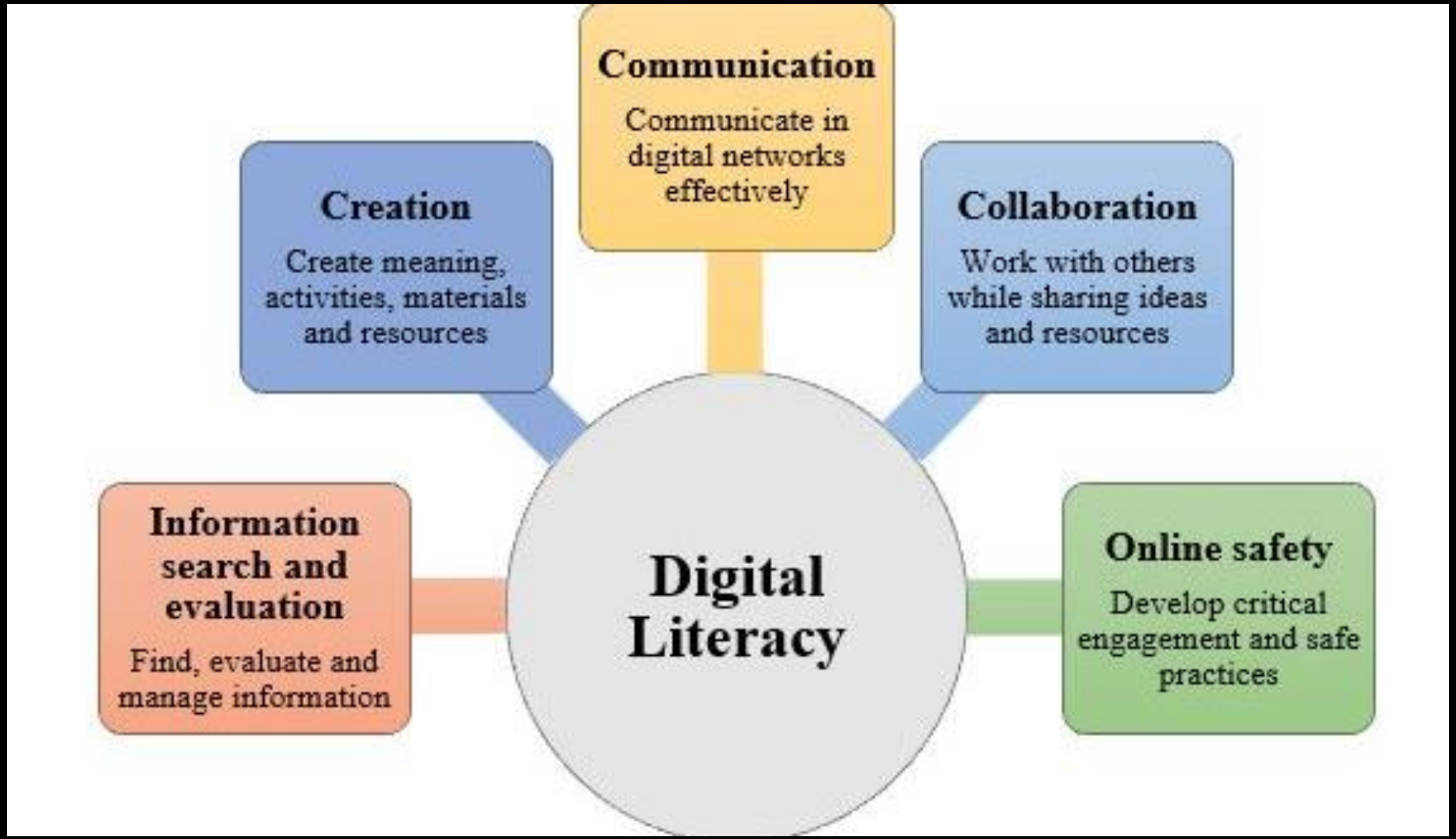
ENHANCING DIGITAL LITERACY SKILLS FOR ADULT LEARNERS

Dr. Sändra R. Brown



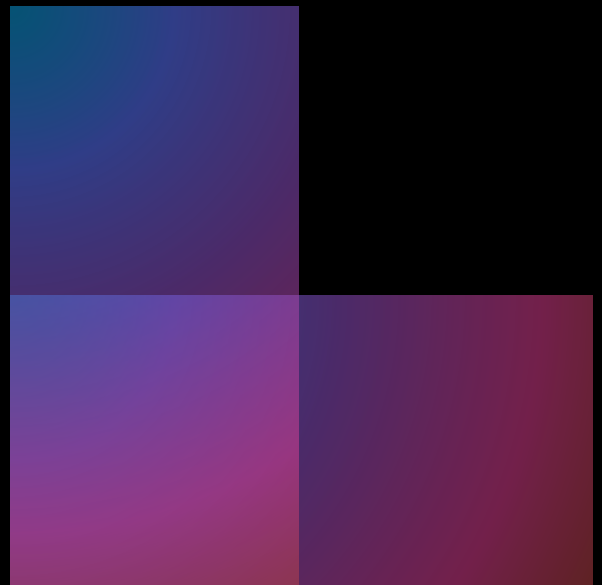
What is Digital Literacy?


Digital Literacy is the ability and skill to find, evaluate, utilize, share, and create content using information technologies and the Internet. It differs from regular literacy that is offline and involves reading, writing, grammar and syntax.


Communication
Communicate in digital networks effectively
Creation
Create meaning, activities, materials and resources
Collaboration
Work with others while sharing ideas and resources
Information search and evaluation
Find, evaluate and manage information
Digital Literacy
Online safety
Develop critical engagement and safe practices

4 principles of Digital Literacy

- Comprehension
- Interdependence
- Social Factors
- Curation



Comprehension

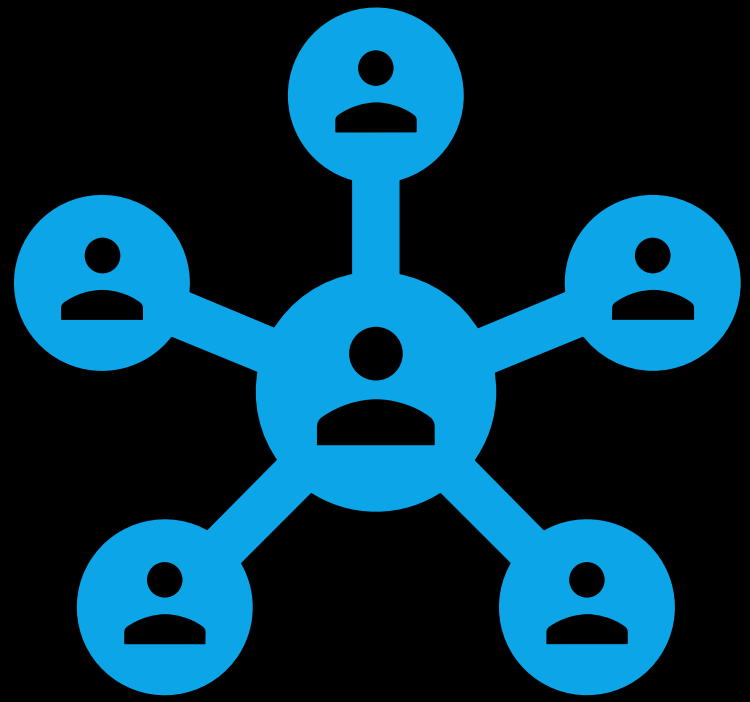
- Students first must reach a level of comprehension of digital literacy through lessons, home practice and support group work. This will help students grasp basic concepts of safety and digital literacy that will form the foundation of their learning.

Interdependence

- This is the concept that different digital platforms are dependent on each other. Students will learn that all forms of digital media are connected to another. This can also help them understand data protection as, due to the sheer abundance of media, it is necessary that media forms not simply co-exist, but supplement one another.

Social Factors

- Students will understand that there are social influences and factors in having an online digital presence. Sharing information, content, media and stories through a certain digital platform can determine the success of that media.



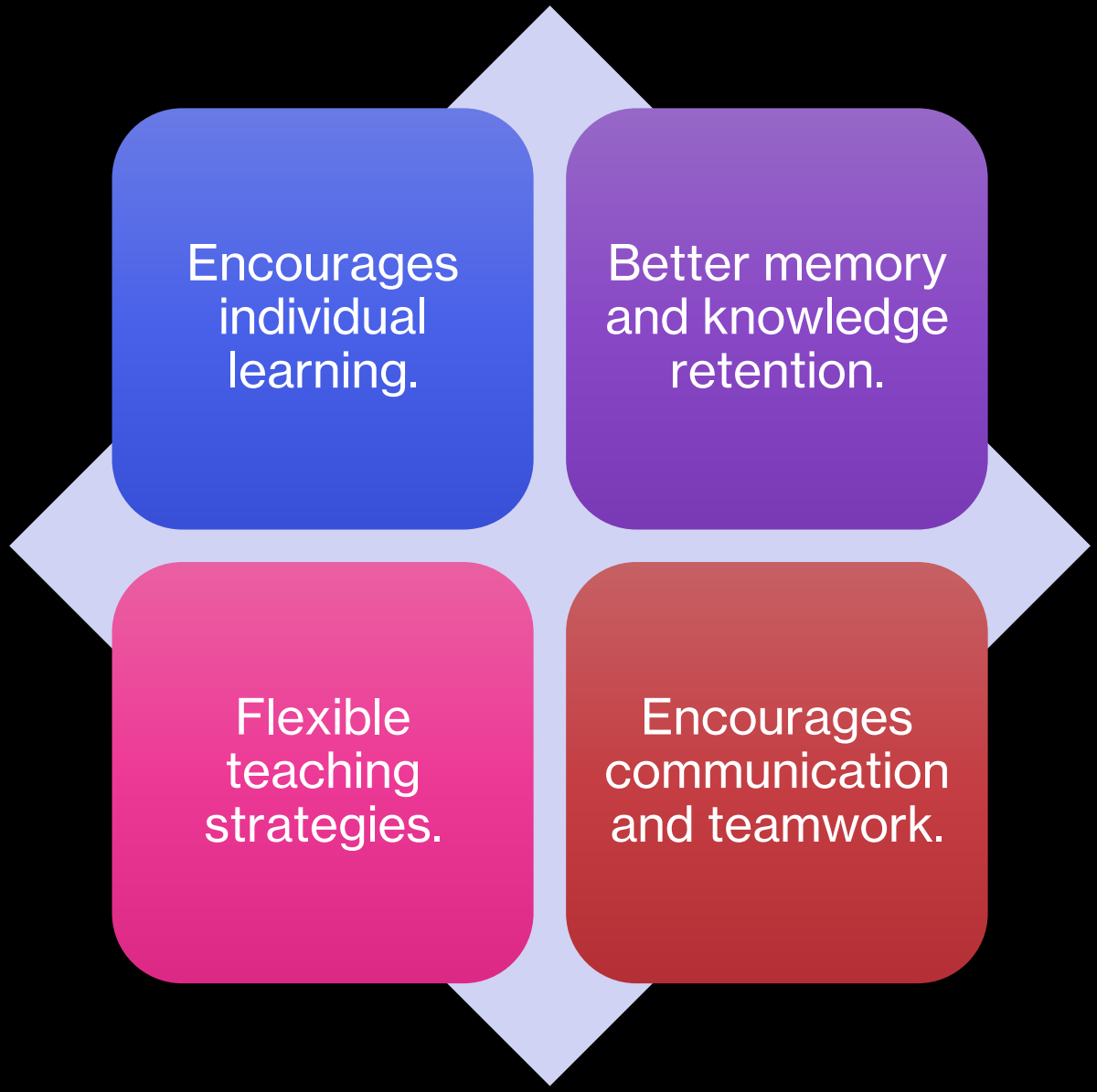
Curation

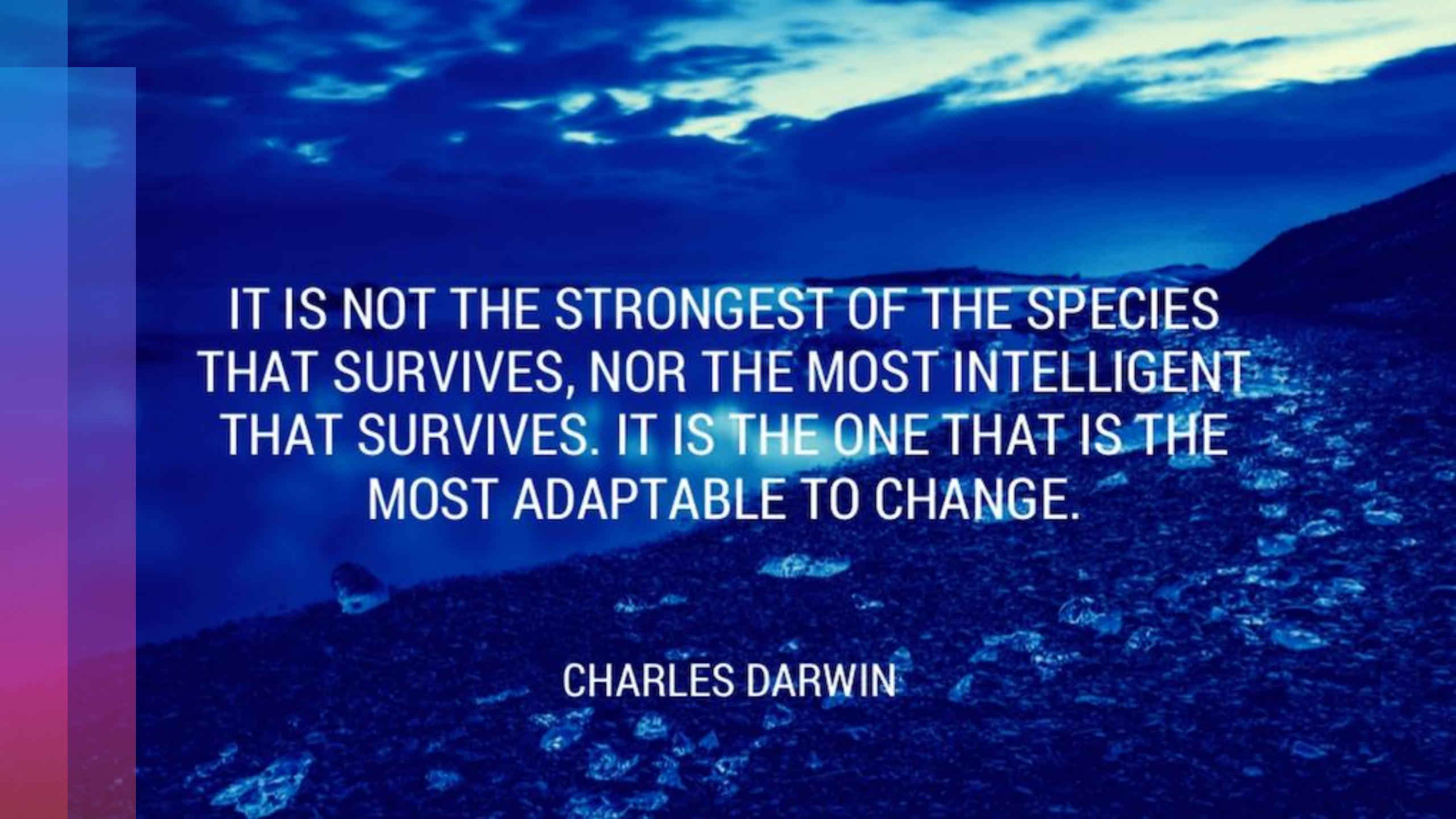
- Students will learn about is curating their own content and digital information. An easy way to do this is through using platforms that offer the ability to store and save content for later. Sites with a focus on this such as Pintrest.com allow students to save content and ideas on their own platforms whilst sharing minimal personal data.

Digital Literacy Competency Areas

- General knowledge - knowing the basics of digital devices.
- Use in everyday life - being able to use these devices day-to-day.
- Work and creative expression - being able to use digital skills to work better and express your creativity.
- Communication and collaboration - using technology to effectively communicate, share and collaborate with other people in the technical environment.
- Processing information - using technology to gather information, research and data.
- Privacy - being able to protect your privacy online effectively.
- Legal and ethical practices - being able to operate and use digital platforms in a socially responsible way, including understanding the laws around using the Internet and other digital devices.
- Balanced attitude - having the right open-minded mindset about technology.
- Awareness - of ICT's role in society and the impact it has.
- Always learning - familiarizing and getting comfortable with new technologies all the time.
- Informed decisions on appropriate digital technologies - being aware of most relevant and common technologies.
- Seamless use - confidently and creatively using technology to increase your effectiveness and efficiency.

Benefits of Digital Literacy




IT IS NOT THE STRONGEST OF THE SPECIES
THAT SURVIVES, NOR THE MOST INTELLIGENT
THAT SURVIVES. IT IS THE ONE THAT IS THE
MOST ADAPTABLE TO CHANGE.
CHARLES DARWIN