

## **Digital Literacy and Its Impact on the Inclination towards English Literature: An Analytical Study**

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### **Abstract**

Digital literacy is the capacity to find, assess, produce, and communicate information using digital technology. The extensive use of digital technology and the internet in recent years has significantly changed how people read, write, and create literature. This has significantly affected the propensity for English literature. People can now easily access a huge amount of English-language literature from all around the world thanks to digital literacy. Additionally, the availability of internet resources, like e-books and audiobooks, has increased the accessibility of literature to a larger audience. Additionally, digital platforms where readers may exchange and discuss their passion for English literature have also been made possible thanks to digital literacy. Connecting with people who have similar literary interests has become simpler thanks to social media networks like Goodreads, for instance. Overall, by making English literature more accessible and enabling the development of reader communities, digital literacy has had a significant impact on the propensity toward it. This impact will probably only get stronger in the future as digital literacy develops even further.

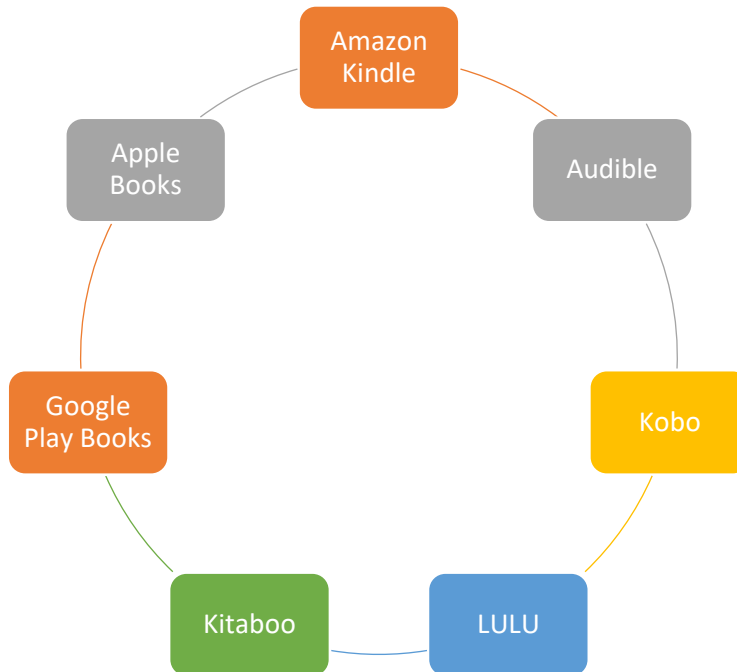
**Keywords:** English Literature, Language, Digital Literacy, Inclination towards English Literature

### **Introduction:**

Digital literacy is the skill of efficiently using digital tools, software programs, and communication technology. It encompasses abilities like using online information resources responsibly, generating and disseminating digital material, and communicating via various digital media. In the modern world, being digitally literate has become essential for navigating the quickly changing digital environment. The propensity for English literature is one area where digital literacy has made a big difference. Our reading, access to, and engagement with literature have changed as a result of the development of digital technologies. Reading is now more accessible and handier than ever thanks to e-books, audiobooks, and online services like Amazon Kindle and Audible.

Additionally, the development of online reader communities where people can discuss books has been made easier by digital technologies. Social media sites like Goodreads and Bookstagram have grown to be well-liked hangouts for book enthusiasts to talk about their favorite books, find new authors, and connect with like-minded people worldwide. Digital technologies have not only made reading more sociable and accessible, but they have also given authors new ways to reach a global audience. Without the requirement for a traditional publishing arrangement, authors can now publish and distribute their work globally thanks to the growth of self-publishing platforms like

Amazon Kindle Direct Publishing and Smashwords. Because writers from all over the world may now share their stories with a worldwide audience, English literature has seen a profusion of new voices and various viewpoints. Figure 1 shows various platforms that support English literature availability online:



**Figure 1 Platforms That Support English Literature Availability Online**

The way we consume literature has also changed because of digital literacy. Multimedia versions of classic English literature have grown in popularity as digital technology has advanced. For instance, adaptations of books into movies and TV episodes like *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Bridgerton*, and *Game of Thrones* have drawn millions of people worldwide. This has given English literature new avenues for audience expansion and reignited interest in great works of literature. Moreover, the way we learn about and teach English literature has also been changed by digital literacy. Students from all around the world may now access top-notch courses and lectures on English literature from leading universities and subject specialists thanks to the growth of online learning platforms like Coursera, EdX, and Udemy. This has increased accessibility and convenience for studying English literature, as well as provided new options for people to pursue their interest in literature.

In conclusion, the propensity for English literature has been significantly impacted by digital literacy. The way we read, access, and interact with literature has changed as a result of digital technologies, from making reading more social and accessible to giving writers and producers new options. Digital literacy is anticipated to continue to play a significant role in influencing the development of English literature as the digital landscape changes.

### **Literature Review:**

A broad range of skills linked to the use and comprehension of digital technologies are included in the multidimensional concept of digital literacy. The relationship between digital literacy and a propensity for English literature has attracted increasing attention in recent years. With an emphasis

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on research released earlier, this review of the literature tries to examine the body of work already written on the subject.

The link between digital literacy and reading habits has been one of the main topics of research in this area. According to a study by **Lancaster and Ames (2010)**, reading for pleasure was positively connected with having digital literacy skills, such as the capacity to find and assess information online. In a similar vein, **Coiro et al.'s (2008)** study discovered that students who were more digitally literate were more likely to participate in online reading activities and read for longer lengths of time.

The effect of digital technologies on the way English literature is taught and studied has also been a subject of inquiry. Students who were more digitally literate were found to be better able to engage with digital texts and use digital tools to enhance their learning, according to a study by **Jones and Cooper (2010)** that examined the use of digital technology in the teaching of English literature.

The effect of digital literacy on the appreciation of literature has also been studied. According to a study by **Mangen et al., (2013)**, reading on a digital device can result in a less thorough comprehension and diminished recollection of the content than reading in print. However, according to other research, digital technology can be utilized to improve literary appreciation, for instance through utilizing multimedia materials and online communities **Spires et al., (2012)**.

The book "Reading in a Digital Age" by **Alan Liu (2004)** is among the earlier efforts on this subject. Liu contends that the way we read, write, and think about literature is changing as a result of digital technology, and that this change necessitates the development of new forms of literacy. He suggests the idea of "deep attention" as a crucial talent for interacting with digital texts. Deep attention entails the capacity for prolonged, concentrated attention as well as the ability to negotiate challenging, nonlinear patterns.

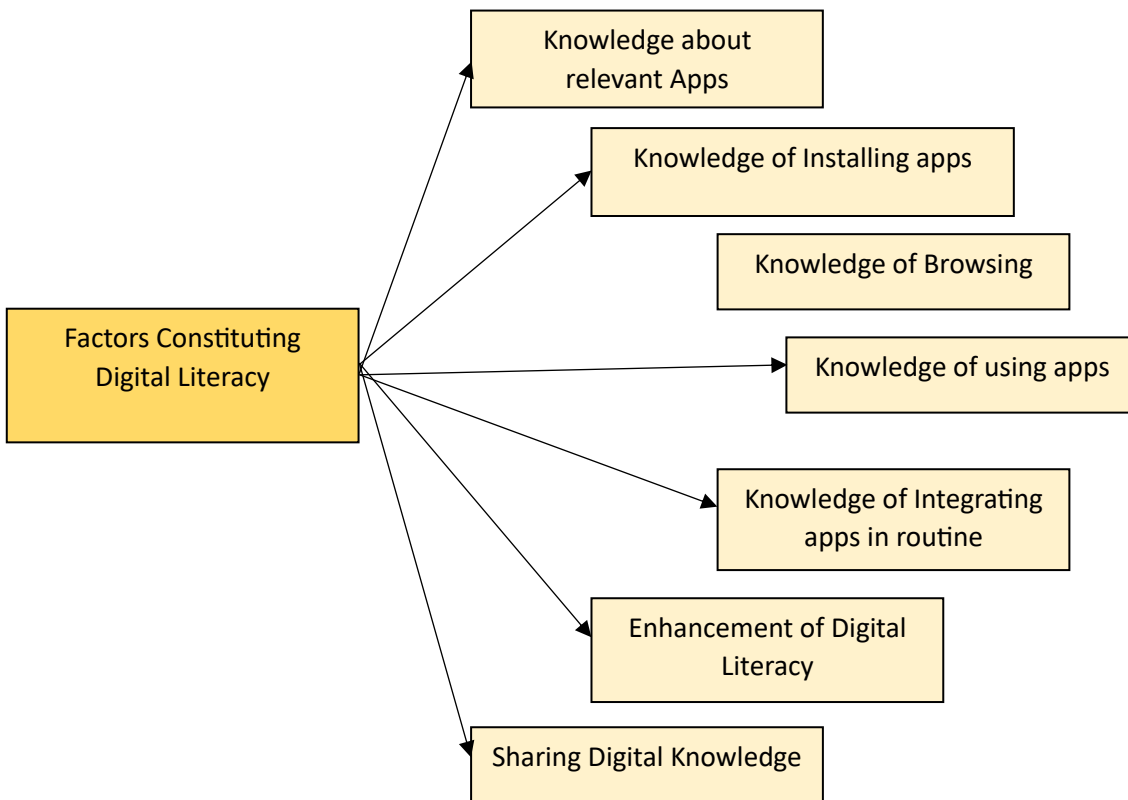
**Collin Brooke (2006)** published one of the first studies on this subject in his book "Lingua Fracta: Towards a Rhetoric of New Media." According to Brooke, the advent of digital technology has profoundly changed how we read and write, and this change has had a significant influence on English literature. He contends that the rise of new genres of literature that use digital media has been aided by the development of digital literacy, which has allowed readers to interact with texts in novel ways.

**Cheryl Ball (2012)** is another academic who has studied this subject in depth. She has written extensively about digital literacy and how it affects English studies. Digital literacy, according to Ball's book "Digital Literacy for Technical Communication," is more than just knowing how to use technology; it's also about comprehending how it affects communication and meaning-making. She contends that the rise of digital literacy has given readers new methods to interact with literature and new avenues for artistic expression.

The authors **Julie Blake and Maria Nikolajeva (2013)**, titled "The Impact of Digital Technology on Reading," investigate how digital technology has affected young people's reading habits. They contend that having a basic understanding of digital literacy has made it possible for readers to access a larger variety of texts and has aided in the formation of new genres of writing that use digital technology. However, they also point out that certain detrimental effects of digital technology on reading practices have been observed, such as a decrease in the time spent engaging in deep reading and critical analysis.

**Denise E. Agosto and June Abbas (2013)** in their research titled "Young Adults' Reading and Writing of Digital Content," investigated how young adults' reading and writing habits have been changed by digital literacy. They contend that the advent of digital technology has made it possible for young adults to interact with a larger variety of texts and express themselves creatively in new ways. However, they also point out that certain detrimental effects of digital technology on reading and writing practices have been observed, such as a decrease in the amount of time spent on in-depth reading and critical analysis.

The authors of research titled "The Social Practises of Digital Literacies," done by **Jennifer Rowsell and Kate Pahl (2014)**, investigate how reading and writing have changed as a result of digital literacy. They contend that the development of new genres of literature that use digital media has been aided by digital technology, which has allowed readers to interact with literature in novel ways. They also point out that several social practices of literacy have been negatively impacted by digital technology, such as the time spent in collaborative writing and face-to-face contact. Figure 2 shows the various dimensions of digital literacy:



**Figure 2 Constituents of Digital Literacy**

**Conclusion:**

In conclusion, digital literacy has significantly influenced people's propensity toward English literature. Technology has made it simpler and more accessible than ever before to read English literature. People can now access and read literature on digital platforms including e-books, online libraries, and audiobooks thanks to digital literacy. Even though they might not have had access to physical copies of the works, people have been encouraged to investigate and participate in English literature thanks to the convenience and accessibility of these resources. Additionally, the

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development of online communities dedicated to literature has been made possible by digital literacy, enabling people to connect with others who share their interests and exchange literary views and ideas. This has made it possible for people to interact with literature in novel and interesting ways, contributing to the development of a robust and dynamic literary culture. It's crucial to remember that there are other factors that influence people's propensity towards English literature outside digital literacy. Individual interests and preferences are greatly influenced by cultural and socioeconomic variables, including education and upbringing. The way that individual's access and interact with English literature has, however, unquestionably been significantly impacted by digital literacy, making it more accessible and promoting a wider engagement in literary culture.

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