

# L A S L E A R N I N G A L E R T S

*Library Association of Singapore*



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*The LAS Learning Alerts, an initiative by the Training and Development Committee, aims to keep librarians informed about the latest trends and updates within our library network.*

*Please contact us at [training@las.org.sg](mailto:training@las.org.sg) if you wish to contribute materials for LAS Learning Alerts.*

## Digital Literacy in Libraries

Libraries are committed to equipping patrons with the skills necessary to thrive in an information-rich society. As information shifts online, libraries serve as vital hubs for learning, providing access to technology and resources that empower individuals to navigate the digital world confidently. By promoting digital literacy, libraries not only enhance individual capabilities but also strengthen community engagement and inclusivity in the digital age.



**Lim Bee Ang**  
Assistant Director  
Lien Ying Chow Library  
Ngee Ann Polytechnic

## Have you always worked on digital literacy, and is there anything about this work that you like?

Throughout my career as a librarian and educator in academic institutions, I have been deeply committed to teaching lifelong digital literacy skills.

Sharing knowledge brings me immense satisfaction, as I see the tangible benefits it provides to our patrons. This experience is profoundly meaningful to me, akin to planting seeds that will grow indefinitely.

Digital literacy is a crucial skill for career readiness, progression, and workplace adaptability, efficiency, and productivity.

This aligns with Lao Tzu's saying,

***“Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach him how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.”***

## The Digital Life@Poly<sup>TM</sup> framework was launched in 2022. Have there been any new developments or initiatives?

Our library ventured into new markets and built strategic partnerships with both internal and external stakeholders as well as reached out to a wider spectrum of patrons.

While our framework's vision and outcomes remain consistent, they are now propelled by a Tripartite Partnership Model. This model structures collaboration between the Library, Schools and Departments, as well as Industry Partners to deliver our services. Through this partnership model, we complement each other's skills, share content, exchange expertise, and co-create impactful content.

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We have rebranded our learning services with catchy names and fresh identities that resonate with the Polytechnic youth. Leveraging the creativity of our student Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) group, ERUDITES, we repackaged our services:

<b>Digital Quest</b>	An experiential learning journey in the Library with scavenger hunt activities
<b>Digital Discovery Day</b>	A Learning Festival showcasing the latest in learning resources and industry trends by publishers, e-Resources vendors and industry partners
<b>Digital Marketplace</b>	Workshops to engage the Schools' Education Specialists, Course Chairs and lecturers on Digital Resources & Trending Topics
<b>Digital Learning</b>	Hybrid workshops and e-Learning packages on lifelong learning & industry relevance competencies
<b>Digital Curation</b>	Curated resources to enhance engagement and learning

## What are your thoughts on the future of Digital Literacy for Libraries?

I liken digital literacy to the cherry on top of a cake. The cake represents the core curriculum a student needs throughout their education journey. The cherries add extra flavor, enriching the cake with various competencies that give students a competitive edge in the workforce. As advocates for engaging and empowering our users in their learning journey, we can offer a variety of these “cherries.”

Much like the entrepreneurs on “Shark Tank” who pitch their innovative business ideas, we need to present the value proposition of our library’s digital literacy offerings to Schools and Industry, aiming for a win-win collaboration to elevate digital literacy within our community.

### Digital Life@Poly™ framework

- a) **Staying Relevant:** Keeping students adaptable and informed about industry trends and skills.
- b) **Cognitive Skills:** Cultivating critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical abilities.
- c) **Emerging Technologies:** Introducing students to the latest technological advancements and their applications
- d) **Safety & Wellness:** Promoting cyber wellness, digital safety, and overall well-being.
- e) **Enhancing Learning:** Leveraging innovative methods to improve learning experiences and outcomes

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## Tell us about yourself and your role in your organization.

I have been with the Learning and Instruction Services for 5 years. I work on engagement with freshmen and improving their first-year experience, hall curriculum instruction, as well as coordinate library workshops.

## Have you always worked on digital literacy in libraries, and is there anything about this work that you like?

At SMU Libraries, everyone contributes to digital literacy programmes and initiatives. If there is an opportunity to enhance our existing programmes, the team comes together to propose and implement enhancements or initiatives.

For example, we developed an information literacy programme titled “[Keep Calm and Read Laterally!](#)” as part of our Bite-Sized Workshop Series in 2023. The workshop aims to develop a blend of critical thinking and digital and media literacies for our students.

## What are some challenges you faced, and what advice do you have for fellow librarians coming up with new digital literacy programmes?

Small group discussion is a core part of the workshop and pedagogy, so it is difficult to offer it to a large cohort per session. However, making it accessible to more students is something we want to improve on.

It is also difficult to find case studies or examples that are both up-to-date, and suitable for teaching lateral reading skills and achieving the workshop’s objectives.



**Li Zhenyan**  
Librarian, SMU Libraries

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## **What are your thoughts on the future of digital literacy for libraries?**

I believe there are two parts to this – librarians and service providers need to continually upskill. As information professionals, we need to keep up with the trends so that when we teach, we can do so more effectively.

The other is we need to be aware of the information needs of our students. Having the right skills and also applying them to the right demographics will be increasingly important in the future. From my own experience, how we use technology like Gen A.I. might be different from how our students are using them. I believe it is important to constantly interact with our users to ensure we can keep up with their evolving needs.

## **How do you think Generative A.I. developments will affect digital literacy?**

I believe generative A.I. is also a part of the digital literacy spectrum. Librarians should learn how to use these A.I. tools so that we can teach our students. We should teach students how to leverage technology. From my experience providing research support, some A.I. tools can be very useful for students don't even know how to get started with research. These tools bring new functionality not yet available on platforms or services we're currently more familiar with, for example Google Scholar, and so can provide value and be beneficial for our students.

## Learning Resources:



# Library Juice Academy

Library Juice Academy offers various courses related to digital literacy and digital curation that are suitable for professionals in libraries, archives, and museums. Here are a few relevant options:

**1. Creating Digital Learning Objects for Libraries**

This course focuses on developing digital tools and content to enhance library services, teaching digital literacy skills within an educational framework.

**2. Fundamentals of Digital Curation in Libraries, Archives, and Museums**

Covering the principles of digital curation, it prepares participants to manage and preserve digital assets effectively.

**3. Introduction to Digital Preservation**

This course is ideal for those interested in understanding the techniques and strategies for long-term digital asset preservation.

**4. Metadata and Description for Digital Special Collections**

For those managing digital collections, this course dives into metadata creation, an essential skill in organizing and enhancing digital literacy resources.

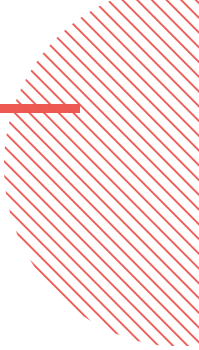
Each course typically lasts four weeks and involves asynchronous participation, allowing flexibility in scheduling. More information, including pricing and session dates, can be found on their website.

The Training and Development Committee welcomes contributions of materials from your institutions to share with fellow professionals. We welcome job aids like checklists, templates, practice notes, flowcharts, step-by-step guides, quick references, documentation, etc.! You can now access the LAS Training Materials Repository via this link: <https://www.las.org.sg/wp/member-portal/members-only-training-materials>

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## Learning Resources:

### Articles on Digital Literacy



#### *Emerging Technologies: Leveraging Digital Literacy for Self-Sufficiency Among Library Professionals*

This paper emphasizes the significance of digital literacy for librarians, enabling them to utilize new tools, curate content, and encourage inclusivity. It suggests ongoing training, investment in digital technologies, and innovative strategies to keep pace with the ever-changing digital environment.

#### *Librarians promoting and driving change across the academic campus: digital transformation at The University of Queensland*

This paper reviews the key elements of the UQL Strategic Framework for Information and Digital Literacy and discusses the ways in which library staff have partnered with the members of the UQ community to build the digital skills they need to connect and collaborate.

#### *A systematic review on digital literacy | Smart Learning Environments*

This essay emphasizes the significance of digital literacy for librarians, enabling them to utilize new tools, curate content, and encourage inclusivity. It suggests ongoing training, investment in digital technologies, and innovative strategies to keep pace with the ever-changing digital environment.

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## Upcoming webinars and conferences:

### *ALA LibLearnX 2025*

<https://2025.alaliblearnx.org/>

24-27 January 2025  
Phoenix Convention Centre  
Phoenix, AZ

LibLearnX 2025 offers a dynamic learning experience for library professionals at all levels. Engage in hands-on workshops and targeted sessions, designed to align with various learning preferences and emphasize practical, experiential learning.

### *Computers in Libraries 2025*

<https://computersinlibraries.informationtoday.com/2025/default.aspx>

25-27 March 2025  
Hyatt Regency Crystal City  
Arlington, VA

Computers in Libraries 2025, hosted by Information Today, Inc., brings together global library professionals to explore the latest in technology and innovation. The event focuses on tools and strategies to enhance both digital and human-centered library services across all sectors.

### *ACRL 2025*

<https://web.cvent.com/event/98632c12-9bee-4ab5-bb05-5fcf69f453a4/summary>

2-5 April 2025  
Minneapolis Convention Center  
Minneapolis, MN & Online

Join academic library professionals at ACRL 2025 to explore the latest research, innovations, and best practices. This hybrid conference offers a mix of keynote sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities designed to enhance your library's impact.