DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP & ELT

A match made in heaven

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Digital English Tunisia 2015 2.0

Photo credit algogenious https://flic.kr/p/9kVqud

Digital Technologies

Participatory cultures

Open access to information
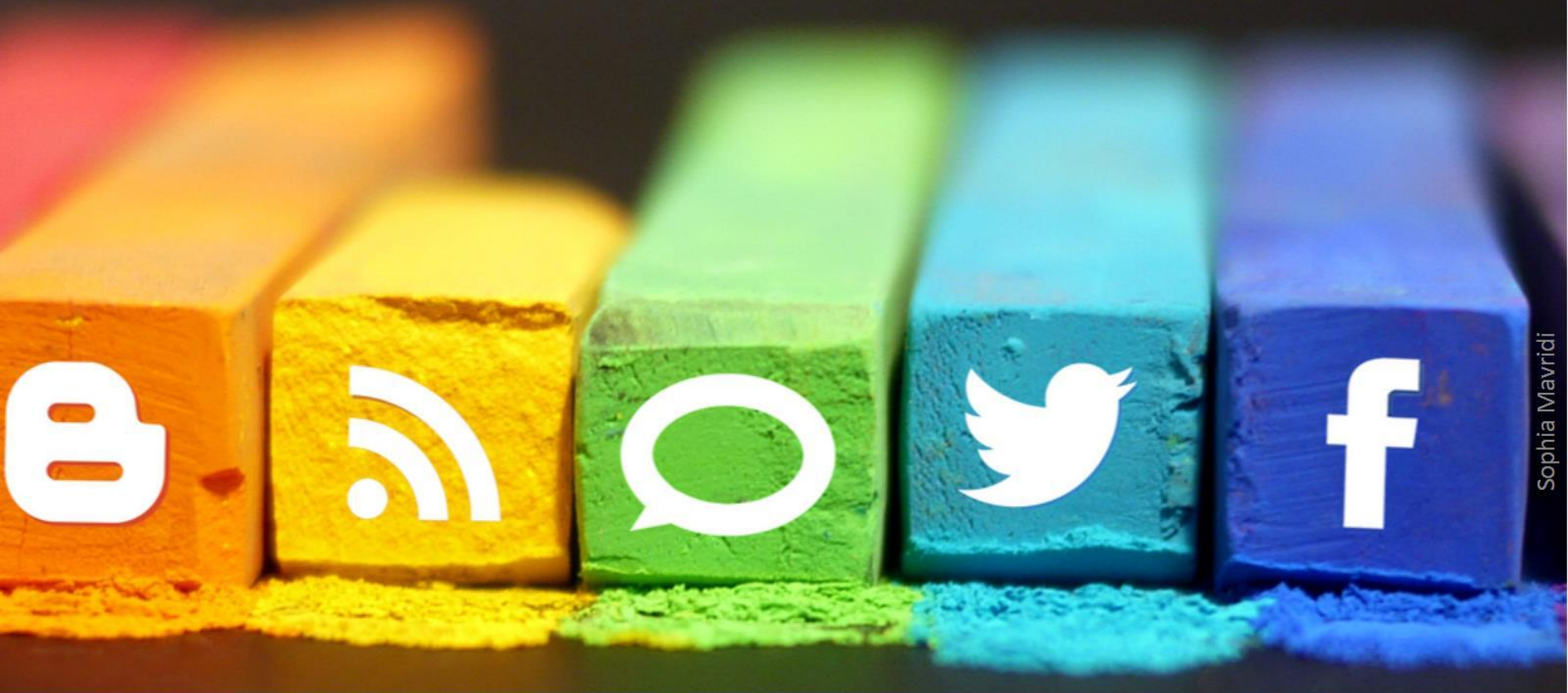
(James et al, 2009)

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Risky opportunities
(Livingstone, 2008: 1)

Characteristics of digital technologies that can alter conventional understandings of **privacy & participation** and can create new **opportunities & risks**

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PERSISTANCE - VISIBILITY- SPREADABILITY- SEARCHABILITY

(boyd, 2014)

TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION
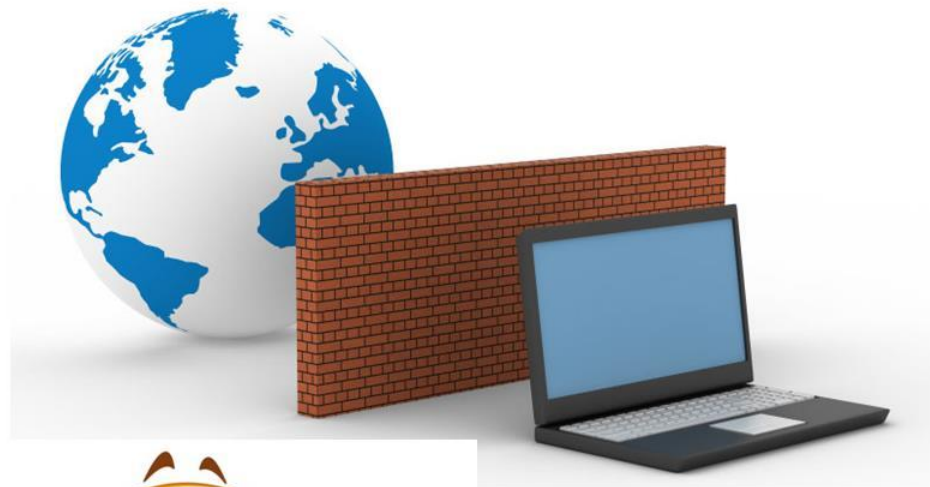## should not be a TOOL-ORIENTED approach

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Just using technology does not automatically encourage students to acquire the ethics, knowledge, skills and competences needed for effective use (Hobbs, 2010)

SOME CURRENT RESPONSES TO THE ISSUE

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Tool-oriented Approaches
Panic when signs of misuse are observed
Firewalls & blocking
Scare tactics

"At a public swimming pool we have gates, put up signs, have lifeguards and shallow ends...

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but we also teach children how to swim"

Byron (2008: 2)

Digital Citizenship
A HOLISTIC APPROACH

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Literacies, skills, competences and ethical thinking for effective digital participation

What is DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

DIGITAL & MEDIA LITERACIES

DIGITAL ETHICS

- Reflection on roles and responsibilities
- Consideration of community benefits and harms

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A digital citizen understands human, cultural, and societal issues related to technology and advocates and practices safe, responsible and ethical use of digital information and technology
(ISTE, 2007)

What is not Digital Citizenship

- **eSafety**
- **Scare tactics**
- **A Reactive approach**
- **List of dos and don'ts**
- **Banning & blocking social media**
- **Raising awareness without developing skills**
- **Talking about risks but not about opportunities**

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What skills & competences do we need to foster?

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PARTICIPATION

Create online communities
Publish students' work for a broader audience
Reflect on the personal and social responsibilities entailed

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MANAGING PRIVACY & IDENTITY

Are young people creating a culture of disclosure?

(Woo, 2006)

Digital Citizens represent themselves in light of the properties of

PERSISTANCE - SEARCHABILITY – VISIBILITY - SPREADABILITY

(James et al, 2009)

SAFETY

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Critical thinking
Revisiting the role of strangers
Perceiving everything we do online as public

DIGITAL & MEDIA LITERACIES

- Who's the author?
- What's the purpose of this message?
- What opinions or ideas are missing?

Evaluating the credibility of online information

- **Critical thinking**
- **Fact checking**
- **Source comparison**

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OWNERSHIP & AUTHORSHIP
Digital Plagiarism and Copyright

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Are digital technologies creating an
'infringing culture'?
(Lessig, 2004)

Teach paraphrasing and citation skills
Introduce students to Creative Commons Licenses
Encourage students to license their own work and publish it online
Teach them to synthesise information into their own original argument

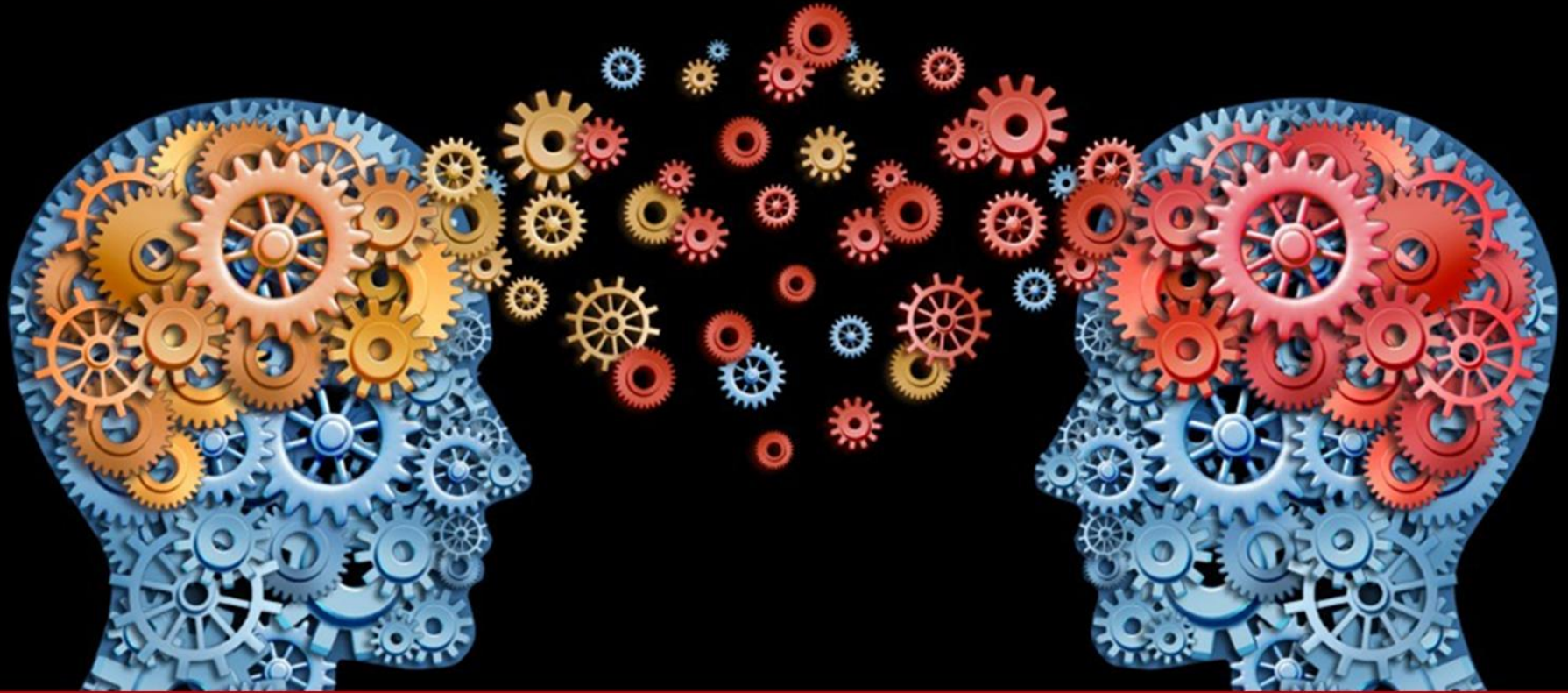# Managing digital **DISTRACTIONS** & healthy computing

- Don't ban the use of mobile devices – **Manage it**
- Switch to **plane mode** when needed
- Involve students in the creation of class rules
- Have a **technology-free** day
- Provide a good role model

Healthy computing
- Right **posture** – RSI, eye strain, back problems
- Take regular **breaks**.

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NETIQUETTE –INTERACTION

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Digital codes
Crossing cultural diversities
Standing up against cyber-bullying & Trolling
Developing Language skills to negotiate, debate and disagree politely

DIGITAL SECURITY
Detecting Malware
Setting strong passwords

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The role of the teacher

Media Literacy and responsible use of technology should not be seen as a separate subject added to the curriculum but as "a paradigm shift" that will reshape how all existing subjects are taught.
(Jenkins et al, 2009)

Digital Citizenship has a major role in ELT contexts because:

- Students need the skills to carry out particular language development tasks e.g. **project work, participation in online communities** for language practice, use of **online authentic material**

- Teachers are concerned about potential **Internet risks** students might be exposed to and hence need to find effective ways to deal with them

- The way ICT is taught in their contexts does not include digital citizenship skills but rather focuses on how digital tools work

- Teaching a language allows them to integrate skills as long as the language of instruction is **English.**

(Mavridi, 2014)

Integrating Digital Citizenship
6 Action Steps

A systematic approach
Not a once-and-for-all approach

Integrate it into your year-round ELT Curriculum

- **Separate lessons**
- **10' chucks before using tech**

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TEACH IN CONTEXT
Create digital communities

We can't teach digital responsibility
if students have no digital communities to reflect on

Focus on **language** skills, not just Digital Citizenship

KEEP CALM AND TEACH ENGLISH

Involve parents

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A **hands-on approach** will help them understand how to supervise and educate their kids

Develop Teacher Skills & Competences

If you are a school manager, help your teachers to develop them

- **Digital & Media Literacies e.g. creation, participation & critical thinking**

- **Ethical & transparent online**
  conduct for effective role-modeling

- **Active digital presence.**

  (Mavridi, 2014)

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"We can't teach these skills to our kids if we don't have experience in them. How can we teach digital footprint if we don't exist online?"

(Data from DigCit expert, Canada – Mavridi, 2014)

Digital Citizenship Resources
Lesson Plans – Videos - eBooks

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Stay informed

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#DigCit

#DigLit

#eSafety

#DigitalIdentity

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Q&A

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