



Digital Inclusion

Connecting unconnected people.

Definition

Digital Inclusion - is social inclusion in the 21st century that ensures individuals and disadvantaged groups have access to, and skills to use, Information and Communication Technologies.

Basically teaching people how to use internet and digital tools.

Today, the Internet and other digital technologies, are necessary for employment, education and social networking.

It includes things such as computer access, internet access, skills to use different software.



Why is it important?

- **Education and life changes**
Better educational performance, easy access to information
- **Employment and Skills**
Access to employment databases from home. Skill is required at most jobs.
- **Saving Money**
Paying online reduces “paper” costs. Removes the middle-man.
- **Empowers people**
Adds voice to people who would otherwise stay unheard



Organisation Examples

These organisations and governments practice Digital Inclusion:

- Washington State University - provides community centers for people unable to access computers. Teaches basic skills to use computers for free.

- Center for Digital Inclusion in Brazil - builds centers in low-income, rural, indigenous communities, hospitals, prisons, and psychiatric clinics which are self-managed and self-sustainable.

- UK government - has developed a 10 step program to reduce digital exclusion in population. It's estimated that around 5 million people in England have never been online.

- niace - charity organisation based in UK that organizes big campaigns on social inclusion funded by individuals and governments.

Organisation Examples 2

- TechConnect - an organisation funded by San Francisco government that is aimed at providing free wireless internet access to all households and business in the entire San Francisco city.

- DICE project - is a 2 year long European program funded by Lifelong Learning that is targeted at disabled people to teach them computer skills.

WebJunction - is a worldwide organisation aimed to teach librarians Digital Inclusion. This is a very important group of people. They share knowledge between each other and the world. They make all contents of all libraries digitally accessible



Improving Digital Inclusion

- **Public access computers.**
- **Computers accessible to defined populations**
- **Free wifi hotspots.**
- **Low cost options for home computer purchasing.**
- **Partnering with broadband providers to offer low cost broadband.**
- **Extending broadband service into rural areas lacking cheap high speed broadband.**

Sources

<http://www.citizenonline.org.uk/about-us/>

<http://webjunction.org/about-us.html>

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<http://www.niace.org.uk/current-work/area/digital-inclusion/projects>

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