

# **K-8 Literacy with Information and Communication Technology**

(Literacy with ICT)

## **Common Questions and Answers**

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Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth has identified Literacy with ICT as one of the foundation skills to be developed across all subjects. Manitoba schools will implement *Literacy with ICT Across the Curriculum* over three years beginning in 2006-07. Schools will report the progress of each student's Literacy with ICT.

### ***What is ICT?***

ICT stands for Information and Communication Technologies. It includes technologies like computers, laptops, digital cameras, video cameras, digital microscopes, scanners, digital audio devices, global positioning systems, electronic whiteboards, the Internet, et cetera. ICTs in the classroom will continue to evolve as new technologies emerge over time.

### ***What is literacy with ICT?***

Literacy with ICT means choosing and using ICT, responsibly and ethically, to support critical and creative thinking about information and about communication.

### ***What is ICT literacy?***

ICT literacy is students demonstrating ICT skills. For example, creating a PowerPoint presentation, a video, an audio file, using scanners, cameras, etc.

### ***What is the difference between literacy with ICT and ICT literacy?***

ICT literacy is students demonstrating ICT skills. Literacy with ICT is students making choices about using ICT responsibly and ethically to support their learning.

In other words, knowing how to create a PowerPoint presentation is ICT literacy. Making a choice that it is the best tool to use in a given situation, enhancing the presentation to suit the level of the audience, and making decisions to reference your sources of information is all part of Literacy with ICT.

ICT Literacy is a part of being Literate with ICT. First students learn how to use a piece of software (ICT literacy), then they make decisions about when it is appropriate to use that software to help plan, research, organize, create, present, and share their learning (literacy with ICT).

***Do K-8 students still have a computer class?***

As such, there is no curriculum for ICT. That means that teachers don't "teach" Computers as a class. However, as required, teachers may teach certain ICT skills to enable students to enhance and extend their learning.

For example in Social Studies students may prepare an oral presentation on early explorers of Canada. The teacher may show students how to use PowerPoint to enhance their presentation.

***If there isn't an ICT curriculum, how do we know what ICT skills are needed?***

There is not a curriculum, but there is a Literacy with ICT continuum. A developmental continuum is a tool for learning based on teacher observations. It describes what teachers see and hear students doing, as they demonstrate their literacy. Students can find their place on the continuum and see what the next steps for growth are.

***Many students are already very comfortable using information and communication technology. Do teachers really need to teach literacy with ICT?***

The teacher's role is not to 'teach ICT' but rather to facilitate learning, promote higher level critical and creative thinking, and assist students as they progress along the developmental continuum for Literacy with ICT. As citizens born into the digital age, students may find it relatively natural to acquire basic skill with technology, but many may not know how to apply ICT effectively and ethically to enhance their learning.

***Where can I see this continuum and find out more?***

Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth has the continuum and many other resources online at <http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/tech/lict/index.html> Click on the **Show Me** tab to see different examples of the continuum or the **Let Me Try** tab to see examples of learning experiences your students may be involved in.