HOW LITERATE ARE YOU?

by Sarah Smith

Literacy is a term most often associated with reading and writing, but the word literacy also refers to the grasp of a subject. This definition points to many different specific types of literacy. In the next three newsletters we are going to explore three of these subtypes in each. In this issue, our focus is Media Literacy, Technology Literacy, and Digital Literacy. Each of these may sound self-explanatory or basic, but much like learning to read and write, these literacies are vital to navigating our rapidly expanding world. We will define the literacy type, offer a fun quiz for you to assess your literacy levels, and then share resources that are available at the BCPL to further develop or explore these skills.

Media Literacy is the ability to view, understand, and evaluate media. The key to Media Literacy is not only to consume media, but to be able to be critical of what you’re taking in (Koltay, 2011). This critique is important to take into account, no matter where you are getting your media. Media is created by people, and people make mistakes. Being critical and evaluative of every piece of media that you consume ensures that you are only taking in and sharing the most accurate and honest information.

Technology Literacy is more than just the grasp of how to use technology; it is how to use technology in a specific way (Moore, 2011). For example, one might assume that technology literacy is the ability to start a computer and browse the internet, but it is more specifically the ability to use technology to do what you need to do when you need to do it (Moore, 2011). Things like knowing how to connect to a printer, knowing how to make an informative and attractive Powerpoint, or how to arrange a Zoom call are technology literacy. This literacy type also tends to develop the ability to learn how to learn more technology more easily.

Digital Literacy is where Media Literacy and Technology Literacy meet. Digital Literacy can be described as the ability to navigate a technological device in order to find, evaluate, and consume media (Boechler, 2014). This involves searching skills, critical thinking, and the ability to know what you’re looking for. These skills might seem obvious as well, but they can be hard to put into practice each time that you go looking for media.
**NEED A NEW READ?**

Need a new book to read, but don’t know where to start? We can help with ‘3 for 5’, our book recommendation service. You tell us 3 books or authors you like, and we can get you started on 3 more great reads! Use this form to give us a little bit of information, and we’ll send some reading suggestions your way. Go to the BCPL Home page. Select Learning, Select Continuing Education, Select 3 for 5 Book Recommendations.

**BCFOL UPDATE**

Volunteers Needed!
To Apply: Go to bcfol.org and download the application. You can also get an application at the self checkout desk at the library.

**Book Sales:** Temporarily suspended. Please check out their Ebay store! Go to Ebay and search: blountcofriendsoflibrary

**LIBRARIAN SPOTLIGHT**

At BCPL we have something to fit everyone’s expertise, but did you know that we also have our own experts? This time we want to highlight our resident tech expert and Adult Services Librarian, AJ. AJ is the one to visit if you’re having trouble with your Kindle or laptop. Come and see him or any of our Adult Services Librarians for help!

**OPEN ONLINE 24/7**

Virtual Programs
You don’t have to be at the library to enjoy our programs and resources. Visit our website for everything from streaming services to research tools. Catch Story Times on Facebook and view our lectures, Storytime for Grown-ups, and many of our other programs on our YouTube channel. Have something you want to learn? Check out our list of classes, now offered virtually.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

We offer Mobile Printing
Send your documents to BCPL from anywhere on any internet enabled device. To print an email message or attachment, simply forward your email to: bcpl-print-bw@printspots.com or bcpl-print-color@printspots.com Make sure to include a subject line on your email.

**ENTERTAINMENT AND BEYOND AT BCPL**

Changes on the Horizon
In March and April, Lynda.com content is rebranding as LinkedIn Learning! You’ll still have full access with your BCPL Library card. Go to the BCPL Home page, Select Learning, Select E-Resources, Select Lynda / LinkedIn Learning.

**BCFOL UPDATE**

Volunteers Needed!
To Apply: Go to bcfol.org and download the application. You can also get an application at the self checkout desk at the library.

Book Sales: Temporarily suspended. Please check out their Ebay store! Go to Ebay and search: blountcofriendsoflibrary

BOARDS MEETINGS:
There is no meeting in December. Library Board of Trustees meets the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm and is open to the public. If you are interested in attending, please call to confirm. The Blount County Friends of the Library meets the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm and is open to the public. If you are interested in attending, please call to confirm.

**LIBRARIAN SPOTLIGHT**

At BCPL we have something to fit everyone’s expertise, but did you know that we also have our own experts? This time we want to highlight our resident tech expert and Adult Services Librarian, AJ. AJ is the one to visit if you’re having trouble with your Kindle or laptop. Come and see him or any of our Adult Services Librarians for help!

**OPEN ONLINE 24/7**

Virtual Programs
You don’t have to be at the library to enjoy our programs and resources. Visit our website for everything from streaming services to research tools. Catch Story Times on Facebook and view our lectures, Storytime for Grown-ups, and many of our other programs on our YouTube channel. Have something you want to learn? Check out our list of classes, now offered virtually.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

We offer Mobile Printing
Send your documents to BCPL from anywhere on any internet enabled device. To print an email message or attachment, simply forward your email to: bcpl-print-bw@printspots.com or bcpl-print-color@printspots.com Make sure to include a subject line on your email.

**ENTERTAINMENT AND BEYOND AT BCPL**

Changes on the Horizon
In March and April, Lynda.com content is rebranding as LinkedIn Learning! You’ll still have full access with your BCPL Library card. Go to the BCPL Home page, Select Learning, Select E-Resources, Select Lynda / LinkedIn Learning.

**BCFOL UPDATE**

Volunteers Needed!
To Apply: Go to bcfol.org and download the application. You can also get an application at the self checkout desk at the library.

**Book Sales:** Temporarily suspended. Please check out their Ebay store! Go to Ebay and search: blountcofriendsoflibrary

**LIBRARIAN SPOTLIGHT**

At BCPL we have something to fit everyone’s expertise, but did you know that we also have our own experts? This time we want to highlight our resident tech expert and Adult Services Librarian, AJ. AJ is the one to visit if you’re having trouble with your Kindle or laptop. Come and see him or any of our Adult Services Librarians for help!

**OPEN ONLINE 24/7**

Virtual Programs
You don’t have to be at the library to enjoy our programs and resources. Visit our website for everything from streaming services to research tools. Catch Story Times on Facebook and view our lectures, Storytime for Grown-ups, and many of our other programs on our YouTube channel. Have something you want to learn? Check out our list of classes, now offered virtually.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

We offer Mobile Printing
Send your documents to BCPL from anywhere on any internet enabled device. To print an email message or attachment, simply forward your email to: bcpl-print-bw@printspots.com or bcpl-print-color@printspots.com Make sure to include a subject line on your email.

**ENTERTAINMENT AND BEYOND AT BCPL**

Changes on the Horizon
In March and April, Lynda.com content is rebranding as LinkedIn Learning! You’ll still have full access with your BCPL Library card. Go to the BCPL Home page, Select Learning, Select E-Resources, Select Lynda / LinkedIn Learning.

**BCFOL UPDATE**

Volunteers Needed!
To Apply: Go to bcfol.org and download the application. You can also get an application at the self checkout desk at the library.

Book Sales: Temporarily suspended. Please check out their Ebay store! Go to Ebay and search: blountcofriendsoflibrary

**LIBRARIAN SPOTLIGHT**

At BCPL we have something to fit everyone’s expertise, but did you know that we also have our own experts? This time we want to highlight our resident tech expert and Adult Services Librarian, AJ. AJ is the one to visit if you’re having trouble with your Kindle or laptop. Come and see him or any of our Adult Services Librarians for help!

**OPEN ONLINE 24/7**

Virtual Programs
You don’t have to be at the library to enjoy our programs and resources. Visit our website for everything from streaming services to research tools. Catch Story Times on Facebook and view our lectures, Storytime for Grown-ups, and many of our other programs on our YouTube channel. Have something you want to learn? Check out our list of classes, now offered virtually.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

We offer Mobile Printing
Send your documents to BCPL from anywhere on any internet enabled device. To print an email message or attachment, simply forward your email to: bcpl-print-bw@printspots.com or bcpl-print-color@printspots.com Make sure to include a subject line on your email.

**ENTERTAINMENT AND BEYOND AT BCPL**

Changes on the Horizon
In March and April, Lynda.com content is rebranding as LinkedIn Learning! You’ll still have full access with your BCPL Library card. Go to the BCPL Home page, Select Learning, Select E-Resources, Select Lynda / LinkedIn Learning.

**BCFOL UPDATE**

Volunteers Needed!
To Apply: Go to bcfol.org and download the application. You can also get an application at the self checkout desk at the library.

Book Sales: Temporarily suspended. Please check out their Ebay store! Go to Ebay and search: blountcofriendsoflibrary

**LIBRARIAN SPOTLIGHT**

At BCPL we have something to fit everyone’s expertise, but did you know that we also have our own experts? This time we want to highlight our resident tech expert and Adult Services Librarian, AJ. AJ is the one to visit if you’re having trouble with your Kindle or laptop. Come and see him or any of our Adult Services Librarians for help!

**OPEN ONLINE 24/7**

Virtual Programs
You don’t have to be at the library to enjoy our programs and resources. Visit our website for everything from streaming services to research tools. Catch Story Times on Facebook and view our lectures, Storytime for Grown-ups, and many of our other programs on our YouTube channel. Have something you want to learn? Check out our list of classes, now offered virtually.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

We offer Mobile Printing
Send your documents to BCPL from anywhere on any internet enabled device. To print an email message or attachment, simply forward your email to: bcpl-print-bw@printspots.com or bcpl-print-color@printspots.com Make sure to include a subject line on your email.

**ENTERTAINMENT AND BEYOND AT BCPL**

Changes on the Horizon
In March and April, Lynda.com content is rebranding as LinkedIn Learning! You’ll still have full access with your BCPL Library card. Go to the BCPL Home page, Select Learning, Select E-Resources, Select Lynda / LinkedIn Learning.