

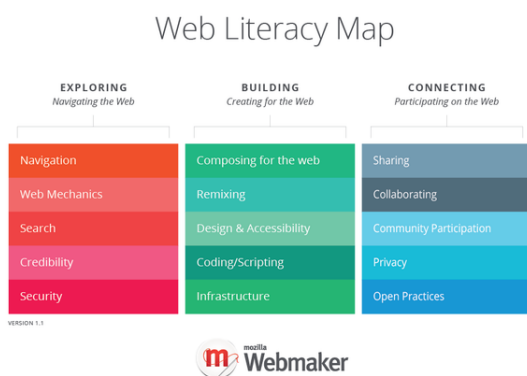
# Web literacy

**Web Literacy** comprises the skills and competencies needed for reading, writing and participating on the web.<sup>[1]</sup> It has been described as “both content and activity” - web users should not just learn about the web but also how to make their own website.<sup>[2]</sup> Web Literacy is closely related to **Digital Literacy**, **Information Literacy**, and **Network literacy** but differs in taking a more holistic approach.

## 1 History of the concept

In the latter part of the 1990s, literacy researchers started to explore the differences between printed text and the network-enabled devices with screens. This research was largely focused on two areas: the credibility of information that can be found on the **World Wide Web**<sup>[3]</sup> and the difference that hypertext makes to 'reading' and 'writing'.<sup>[4]</sup> These skills were included in definitions of **Information Literacy** and included in a **SCONUL** position paper in 1999.<sup>[5]</sup> This paper became the '7 Pillars of Information Literacy' which was last updated in 2011.<sup>[6]</sup>

## 2 Web Literacy Map



Web Literacy Map v1.1.0

The Mozilla Foundation is a non-profit organization that promotes openness, innovation and participation on the Internet. It has created a Web Literacy Map<sup>[1]</sup> in consultation with a community of stakeholders from formal and informal education, as well as industry.<sup>[7]</sup> Web literacy is described as “the skills and competencies needed for

reading, writing and participating on the web”.<sup>[1]</sup> Work on what was originally entitled a Web Literacy 'Standard' began in early 2013. Version 1.0 was launched at the Mozilla Festival later that year.<sup>[8]</sup> Going forward, 'standard' was seen to be problematic and against the ethos of what the Mozilla community was trying to achieve.<sup>[9]</sup>

Version 1.1 of the Web Literacy Map was released in early 2014<sup>[10]</sup> and underpins the Mozilla Foundation's **Webmaker resources** section, where learners and mentors can find activities that help teach related areas. Although the Web Literacy Map is a list of strands, skills and competencies, it is most commonly represented as a competency grid.

### Exploring

*(Navigating the Web)*

- Navigation *(Using software tools to browse the web)*
- Web Mechanics *(Understanding the web ecosystem)*
- Search *(Locating information, people and resources via the web)*
- Credibility *(Critically evaluating information found on the web)*
- Security *(Keeping systems, identities, and content safe)*

### Building

*(Creating for the Web)*

- Composing for the Web *(Creating and curating content)*
- Remixing *(Modifying existing web resources to create something new)*
- Design & Accessibility *(Creating universally effective communications through web resources)*
- Coding/Scripting *(Creating interactive experiences on the web)*
- Infrastructure *(Understanding the Internet stack)*

### Connecting

*(Participating on the Web)*

- Sharing *(Creating web resources with others)*

- Collaborating (*Providing access to web resources*)
- Community Participation (*Getting involved in web communities and understanding their practices*)
- Privacy (*Examining the consequences of sharing data online*)
- Open Practices (*Helping to keep the web democratic and universally accessible*)

The Mozilla community is aiming to have version 1.5 of the Web Literacy Map finalised for the end of March 2015.<sup>[11]</sup> This will involve small changes to the competencies layer and a comprehensive review of the skills they contain.<sup>[12]</sup>

### 3 References

- [1] Mozilla Web Literacy Map v1.1.0
- [2] Davidson, C.N. & Surman, M. “Why Web Literacy Should Be Part of Every Education”, Fast Company. Retrieved 2 February 2015.
- [3] Detweiler, M. C., Hess, S. M., & Peck, A. C. (1996, October). Acquiring User-Centered Design Skills by Designing and Evaluating World Wide Web Pages. In *Proceedings of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Annual Meeting* (Vol. 40, No. 8, pp. 459-462). SAGE Publications
- [4] Snyder, I., & Joyce, M. (Eds.). (1998). *Page to screen: Taking literacy into the electronic era*. Psychology Press.
- [5] SCONUL Advisory Committee on Information Literacy (1999) Information skills in higher education: a SCONUL position paper. Prepared by the Information Skills Task Force, on behalf of SCONUL.
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- [7] Belshaw, D.A.J. & Smith, K.L. “Why Mozilla cares about Web Literacy”. Retrieved 2 February 2015.
- [8] Web Literacy Standard 1.0 from Mozilla. BoingBoing. Retrieved 12 February 2015.
- [9] The Web Literacy Standard is dead (long live the Web Literacy Map!). Doug Belshaw’s blog. Retrieved 12 February 2015.
- [10] Why the Web Literacy Map will remain at v1.1 until MozFest. Mozilla Webmaker blog. Retrieved 12 February 2015.
- [11] Building version 1.5 of Mozilla’s Web Literacy Map. Mozilla Webmaker blog. Retrieved 12 February 2015.
- [12] Help us redefine the skills underpinning three Web Literacy Map competencies!. Literaci.es. Retrieved 12 February 2015.

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