Digital literacy and AI

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How has digital literacy changed over the last year because of artificial intelligence?

Checking recent sources on AI and digital literacy.

I'll look up recent research and reporting on this so the answer reflects what's happened over the past year.

Searched the web ›

Over the past year, digital literacy has stopped meaning mainly "can you use technology and find reliable information" and started to include "can you work with, and judge, AI systems." Most of the evidence is survey data, and some of it comes from vendors with something to sell, so read it as directional.

It's become a formal expectation in schools and law. In a March 2026 EdWeek survey, nearly 8 in 10 educators said high school students in their district are receiving lessons on what AI is and how to use it responsibly, though younger students are less likely to get them. In Europe, the EU-OECD AI Literacy Framework was released on 18 June 2026, with four domains and 19 competences. Separately, national authorities began enforcing the AI Act's staff AI literacy obligation on 2 August 2026. A July amendment clarified that it doesn't require guaranteeing any specific level of literacy. Artificial Intelligence Fr... +3

The workplace now treats it as baseline. A DataCamp/YouGov survey of enterprise leaders found 72% call AI literacy essential for day-to-day work, yet nearly 60% report a skills gap, and only 42% provide foundational data literacy training at scale. datacamp datacamp

Practice is lagging. DataCamp's higher-education survey found learners put only about 9% of their coursework toward AI fluency topics, with no meaningful growth between 2025 and 2026. In K–8, one vendor describes students using AI to search, write and solve problems, often without understanding how the tools work or how to evaluate their output. Educators in a national landscape study asked for practical classroom examples and clearer guidance on student use and policy. Przejdź do głównej treści +2

Spotting fakes got harder and more important. Researchers describe a cascade of AI fakes about war with Iran since late February 2026. A meta-analysis of experiments found AI-generated text is increasingly rated as more credible, while skepticism toward visual misinformation like deepfakes has grown. A less obvious cost is that ubiquitous AI-generated media can erode trust in legitimate journalism, even when people identify content as manipulated. AI detectors aren't a fix either: one report found Google Gemini gave conflicting answers about whether a text was AI-generated, even one it had produced itself. The encouraging finding is that even a short, one-time intervention measurably improved students' critical thinking and ability to assess digital authenticity. The Generative Fog of ... +3

The divide is widening. An EY report on older adults warns of a stark "digital divide" that could deepen in the age of AI. ey

The common thread is that AI literacy is being built on top of digital literacy, not replacing it. Commentators describe AI literacy as built on digital literacy, with both needing to start early, and the emphasis has moved from tool operation toward questioning outputs, checking sources and understanding limits. learning

If you tell me whether you care most about schools, workplaces or the general public, I can go deeper on that area.

Sources:

- EdWeek: Are AI Literacy Lessons Now the Norm?
- DataCamp: State of Data and AI Literacy 2026
- DataCamp: State of AI Fluency in Higher Education 2026
- NGCP Landscape Study (K-12 educators)
- Learning.com: State of K-8 digital and AI literacy
- EY: Older generations and AI
- EU-OECD AI Literacy Framework overview
- Article 4 enforcement
- EU AI Act and schools
- IPIE meta-analysis summary (SSRC)
- AI-generated disinformation and trust in news
- The Generative Fog of War
- Deepfake literacy intervention, Croatia