



DEVELOPING DIGITAL DATA LITERACY

Module 1

Information & Data Literacy

Explorer Level Activities

Identifying my information needs and building a simple searching strategy

D3 - A project to integrate open data, digital skills & democratic engagement in schools



open data charter

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Description of the activity

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“The pandemic has raised a plethora of questions concerning our health, society, education and many more aspects of our life. Identifying our actual needs in this new reality and making the right questions to explore these needs is not always an easy thing to do.

One of the many questions that arises during the pandemic has to do with *the measures that we need to take to protect ourselves against the COVID-19 virus*”

- **Outline of the activity**
 - Discover your information needs
 - Build a basic searching strategy





Discover what you already know

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- One way to discover your own information needs is
 - giving yourself credit for what you already know about the topic. The following chart can help you list whatever you already know.
 - Once you have stated what you do know, it should be easier to state what you don't know.

What do you know? (e.g., about protection measures against COVID-19)	How do you know it? (e.g., heard from your parents, from the news etc.)	How confident do you feel about this knowledge? (e.g., 100% confident or just assume it is right?)
Wash my hands	Know it since childhood, everybody says that	Assume it is right
Use masks	Learned it from the news, Watching doctors wear masks	I have doubts especially in cases of improper use



Keep track of your knowledge

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- A “K-W-H-L” chart is a graphical way to keep your research on track if you want
 - what the person knows (**K**),
 - what the person wants to know (**W**),
 - how (**H**) the person will find the information, and
 - what the person has learned (**L**) about a topic.
- It is used *before*, *during*, and *after* conducting research or studying any new material.

What do you already <u>K</u> now about the topic?	What do you <u>W</u> ant to know about the topic?	<u>H</u> ow will you find information on your topic?	What have you <u>L</u> earned about the topic?





Start building a search strategy

Step 1: Choose topic

- Our scenario has to do with the pandemic and in finding proper measures to reduce the risk of coronavirus infection.
- One phrase describing our problem would be:
“I want to know proper measures that would protect me from getting infected by the coronavirus.”
 - Keywords that tell you what to do: **know, protect, getting infected**
 - Research context/research focus: **protection measures**
 - Key theme: **coronavirus**



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Step 2: Turn topic into research question

- Is the phrase from Step 1 the most appropriate one
- Keywords that can help us turn this phrase *into a more suitable research question* are
 - **Who** is the intended audience of the information needed?
 - **What** type of information will answer the question?
 - **Where** is to be applied? *Or Where* to search for information?
 - **When** do we need the information? *Or When* is it referred to?
 - **Why** is the information important?
- The “5 Ws” (*Who, What, Where, When, Why*) can start various questions in order to better articulate our information needs.





Step 2 in our scenario

- Indicative questions for our scenario
 - **Who?** Teenagers / kids / medical staff / older people
 - **What?** Tools / habits / materials
 - **Where?** In public transport / at home / in the supermarket / anywhere etc.
 - **When?** Before vaccination / after vaccination / anytime
 - **Why?** (*a bit obvious*) to protect ourselves / others / confine virus transmission
- **Activity:** Answer the above questions related to your topic



Step 3: Choose keywords

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- We try to find the suitable keywords that
 - usually constitute the main ideas or concepts in our research question
 - they will probably serve as search terms in our research.
- For Example in our scenario:
 - learn, protection measures, prevent infection, coronavirus, public transportation
- **Activity:** Choose keywords to help you research your topic of interest.



Step 4: Synonyms or Narrowing

- Find *Synonyms or Narrowing*, if needed and applicable in your topic
- <https://youtu.be/x9diL8-ZpAk>, a “search keywords tutorial”
- Finding synonyms of previously selected keywords in our scenario

	Measures	Coronavirus	Public Transportation
Synonyms	Precautions	N/A	Mass transit Public transit
Narrower	Safety measures protection measures Steps	Covid-19 SARS SARS-Cov-2	Buses Metro Airplanes
Broader	Concerns Methods	Virus	Transportations





Step 5: Start searching

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- Information Sources
 - Books, Journals, Magazines, Encyclopaedias, World-Wide-Web
- Use different Search Engines:
 - [Google Search Engine \(https://www.google.com\)](https://www.google.com)
 - [DuckDuckGo Search Engine \(https://duckduckgo.com\)](https://duckduckgo.com)
 - <https://www.bing.com>
 - <https://yandex.com>
 - <https://swisscows.com/?region=iv&culture=en>
 - [https://search.creativecommons.](https://search.creativecommons)





Activity

- Apply your search keywords to one or more search engines
- You could compare the results appearing in the different search engines, taking into consideration criteria such as:
 - the number of the returned results, if they return any same resources on their first page
 - which search engine at first glance returns the more relative results