

Session report on the annual Conference on Intercultural Perspectives on Information Literacy and Metaliteracy 2024: Digital Rights & AI

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The annual conference on intercultural perspectives on information literacy and meta literacy took place on the 18th of January 2024 via BigBlueButton and featured a diverse array of topics, each connected to the realm of artificial intelligence, reflecting the interdisciplinary nature and impact of AI across different domains. This short report aims to summarize one of the topics discussed in this conference on digital rights and AI.

The presentation provided an overview on digital rights and its importance to be acknowledged by the law and the awareness it needs to have amongst the citizens of the internet. Digital rights were put in comparison to the human rights every person should have and acknowledge as well as the complexity of protecting those rights in a place that knows no borders across the globe. Additionally, a case study has been presented to underline the danger AI can pose to those rights by sneakily collecting and processing information on citizens without their knowledge, putting them at risk by leaving the responsibility and decision to an algorithm and system, that creates categories based on information it collects and possibly developing biases. A solution to safely implement AI in government spaces and protecting the rights of the citizens still needs to be developed and researched.

The discourse was initiated by a commenter wondering about the role education should be playing in empowering individuals to understand and protect their digital rights in the face of evolving AI technologies. The group emphasized that human rights are not the same in every country and neither will be the digital rights. It is important to have a discussion on this topic in the respective universities and start by making adolescents aware of their rights for future protection. Another topic was the application of one law worldwide and why this may be a problem. As it has already been established in the presentation that the internet is a place without borders and the difficulties of applying unified rules to apply offline when the rights have been violated, the group approached this question from a different perspective. The approach and use of the internet is different regarding socio-economic backgrounds and the education has to be adapted to those differences. This can look completely different starting by first explaining the ways of the internet and its navigation to already being a daily user and being confronted by the dangers of the unawareness to these rights. Furthermore, the group referred to the presentation mainly focusing on the digital rights in the EU.

If further information on this topic is of interest, a few sources are provided below.

Custers, B. (2022). New digital rights: Imagining additional fundamental rights for the digital era. *Computer Law & Security Review*, 44, 105636. <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.CLSR.2021.105636>

Digital Freedom Fund. (2020). Digital Rights are Human Rights. https://digitalfreedomfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Human-Rights_V3.pdf

Rachovitsa, A., & Johann, N. (2022). The Human Rights Implications of the Use of AI in the Digital Welfare State: Lessons Learned from the Dutch SyRI Case. *Human Rights Law Review*, 22(2). <https://doi.org/10.1093/HRLR/NGAC010>