



Technology literacy isn't an extra – and it's not only about computers.

But, it *is* resource-intensive. It requires more flexibility than traditional school schedules and culture tend to allow – such as time for students to work with expert mentors on extended independent inquiries. It also requires more money and more creative adults who collaborate to model the kinds of 21st-century skills they want students to acquire.

Barriers to integrating technology literacy into classrooms include:

- Lack of accessible computers and digital tools
- Expense of online tools that support teaching and learning
- Lack of leadership and expertise to spearhead needed changes
- Unwillingness to promote teamwork and coalition building with local and global communities
- Lack of time and expertise to explore and understand available software
- Narrow definition of literacy as including only paper-based texts
- Lack of understanding of and confidence in the potential of the use of technology, especially in the early years of schooling

These hurdles don't need to block the way to helping students become the 21st-century learners they need to be. The suggestions in these TLAP professional development modules can help you change the way learning happens in your classroom. See the "additional resources" link for a collection of some of the best ideas out there.