"This was actually fun!": Engaging users in conversations about digital literacy

Madisson Goldhawk  
*Western University*, mgoldha2@uwo.ca

Erin Johnson  
*Western University*, ejohns83@uwo.ca

Lillian S. Rigling  
*Western University*, lrigling@uwo.ca

Follow this and additional works at: [https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/wlpres](https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/wlpres)  
Part of the [Information Literacy Commons](https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/wlpres)

Citation of this paper:  
Goldhawk, Madisson; Johnson, Erin; and Rigling, Lillian S., ""This was actually fun!": Engaging users in conversations about digital literacy" (2018). *Western Libraries Presentations*. 64.  
[https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/wlpres/64](https://ir.lib.uwo.ca/wlpres/64)
"This was actually fun!"

Engaging users in conversations about digital literacy

Madisson Goldhawk, Erin Johnson, Lillian Rigling
Hello!

Erin Johnson, Research & Instructional Services, Western Libraries
Madisson Goldhawk, Research & Instructional Services, Western Libraries
Lillian Rigling, Research & Scholarly Communications Librarian, Western Libraries

@erniee_jo
@maddiegoldhawk
@lilyrglg
#DigLitFun
Purpose

To connect the Western University community with tools to improve their 21st century digital literacy.

To provide students with actionable first-steps to critically evaluate their consumption/creation of digital information.
What We Did...

Aligned with...
Open Access Week (October 23-29, 2017)
Cybersecurity Awareness Month (October)
Choose Privacy Week (May 1-7, 2017)
You Can Do It, Too!

https://digitalliteracy.info/
Checking Your Information Privilege

Recognizing Inequitable Access and Injustice in Media
Recognizing Inequitable Access

A card sorting game was used to demonstrate the high cost of library resources relative to the cost of consumer items.

Aligned with Open Access Week.
Complete the sentence:
“If I lost access to library resources today, I would...”
How’d it go?

Students were shook.

...In a good way!
“What?! Is that price for the whole school?! That's insane.”

“Woah! That's a crazy expensive database.”

“Eye-opening!”

“Is there a petition I can sign?”

“I definitely support open access.”
You Shall Not Pass

Improving Password Security
Improving Password Security

This activity uses an online password checker produced by Dashlane Password Manager, to raise awareness of password security and password best practices.
How Secure Is Your Password?

It would take a computer...

- Instantly: 9 milliseconds
- 1 minute
- 25 milliseconds: 9 hours
- 4 weeks
- # 3 years
- # 1 year
- # 1 month
- # 6 months
- # 55 years
- # 600 years
- # 3,600 years
- # 3 billion years
- # 5 billion years
- # 40 billion years
- # 260 billion years

To crack my password.
Let’s Play !
https://howsecureismypassword.net/
Have I Been Pwned?

This supplemental activity makes use of Have I Been Pwned?, a free resource to quickly assess if an online account of has been compromised or "pwned" in a data breach.
How’d it go?

Participants were skeptical.

...With good reason!
“There's a lot of sketchy things going on here: free candy, asking us for our passwords?...”

“Can I trust you?”

“Is this a scheme to get my password?”

“I don’t want to know. I really don’t.”

“I use the same password for everything.”
Plenty of users were wary of the tool.
I Always Feel Like Somebody’s Watching Me

Practical Lessons in Digital Privacy
Trait Prediction Engine

Digital footprints

- Facebook Likes
- Facebook statuses
- Tweets
- Browsing data
- Open text
- And more...

Individual profiles

Psychographics
- BIG5 Personality
- Intelligence
- Life Satisfaction
- Political Views
- Religious Views
- Sexuality
- Profession

Demographics
- Age
- Gender
- Relationship status

https://applymagicsauce.com/
Lessons in Digital Privacy

Web-based tool to predict the psychological traits using the digital footprint of social media users.

The game:

- “Do you want to find out who Facebook thinks you are?”
- Talk to users about privacy settings while they check out their digital profile

https://applymagicsauce.com
How’d it go?

Users were engaged.

...And had mixed reactions.
“Far from accurate”

“This is a little bit eerie”

“That’s not even close to right”

“Weirdly accurate”

“Advertising is crazy these days”

“Ten year old me was a different me... this isn’t who I am anymore”
Fake News and You

Critically Evaluating Information
Critical Evaluation of Information

Card sorting game is based on information found at Media Bias Fact Check.

https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/
What’s the bias of your favourite news source?
Let’s Play !
Left-Centre Bias / High Factual Reporting
FINANCIAL POST

Highly Factual

Left bias

Questionable/
“Fake News”

Right bias
FINANCIAL POST
Right-Centre Bias / High Factual Reporting
How’d it go?

Participants lacked confidence in evaluation.
“It actually looks like a fun game!”

“This is really interesting!”

“Where did you find your information?”

“Do you work for the local news?”

“I’m bad at this kind of thing”

“Bias is foreign to me... it has something to do with politics, right?”
4 one-on-one, teachable moments for digital literacy

210
210 one-on-one, teachable moments for digital literacy = 52.5 unique interactions per hour

https://digitalliteracy.info/
### Activity #1 – “You Shall Not Pass”: Improving Password Security

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who</th>
<th>A minimum of two people needed to staff the activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>When</td>
<td>This is a good activity for “Cyber Security Awareness Week/Month”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Why**
- To get users thinking about their password security and/or determine if users are already thinking about this aspect of their digital life.
- To raise awareness about the implications of poor password security.
- Encourage responsible creation and use of information and critical thinking.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Follow-up</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Logistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Ask users, “How long do you think it would take a computer to crack your password?” | Send an email to everyone who provided an address. Include: Links to pages that include password tips and offer services of password managers. Link to the Online Privacy Guide: [http://guides.lib.uwo.ca/online_privacy](http://guides.lib.uwo.ca/online_privacy) | • Number of participants  
• Record how long the game suggests it would take to crack each person’s password on a large whiteboard  
• Open-ended participant comments | □ A table  
□ Up to 4 chairs  
□ 2 iPads or laptops with Internet connection  
□ Clipboard tally sheet to track number of participants and their comments  
□ An electronic document (on iPad or laptop) for the team to collect email addresses  
□ Swag and candy  
□ Whiteboard and markers |
| Use a visual display/tally system (whiteboard) to record the amount of time it would take according to this website. Talk to users about what they think about those results. Engage in conversations about how to build stronger passwords. |                                                                                     |                            |                            |

- How secure is my password? [https://howsecureismypassword.net/](https://howsecureismypassword.net/)
- If students have questions or concerns about their security based on the results from the first activity, we offer to show them another: [https://haveibeenpwned.com/](https://haveibeenpwned.com/)

---

"You Shall Not Pass - Improving Password Security," by Madisson Goldhawk, Erin Johnson, and Lillian Rigling is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/).
A few things to consider...

These activities are formatted to work well with teaching these specific digital literacy outcomes.

Pop-up format will not work with all content - Retrofitting an idea into this format may not work

Pop-ups work well with tactile issues
Questions?
Websites:

https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/

https://applymagicsauce.com/

Images:


Nozell, Marc. Privilege is... #WomensMarch #WomensMarch2018 #SenecaFalls #NY. Wikimedia Commons. 20 Jan 2018 Web 4 May 2018 https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Privilege_is..._-WomensMarch_-WomensMarch2018_-SenecaFalls_-NY_(24937361387).jpg
