

**Abstract**

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## **Digital Literacy at the Partium Christian University**

The underlying problem motivating our research is the seemingly paradoxical situation of Romania, where a relatively good (though below EU-average) internet coverage, a good broadband (mostly urban) digital infrastructure is coupled with a low overall level of digital skills. Generally speaking, only 29% of Romanians has basic or above basic digital skills, whereas the EU average is almost double (57%).

The authors' objective is to conceptualize and contextualize the meaning of digital literacy in the case of Romania, to develop a synthesis of the extensive and fast developing literature and to apply chosen sociological tools to assess the digital literacy, e-skills of an academic community: the students and teaching staff of Partium Christian University of Oradea, Romania.

We hypothesize that the e-skills of our target groups are at a much lower level than it is "commonly expected" by the general public, the digital skills being somewhat skewed (easy access applications, visual tools etc.), in the detriment of the more complex task-solving expertise required by the job market (e.g. word processing with styles, spreadsheet calculations, web authoring). Moreover, students and teachers are not adequately familiar with the digital learning tools, online courses are seldom used at the university. Our research shall emphasize the need for the introduction of a special digitalization strategy at the university, with possible positive implications in terms of the graduates' labour market integration.