

Introduction

As digital and internet freedom becomes increasingly interlinked with other international policy discussions, so does the need for coordinated action to support it. The Freedom Online Coalition (FOC) offers its 37 member states a unique informal diplomatic space to share information and concerns about current developments that threaten to compromise Internet Freedom around the world and facilitates coordination in relevant forums to advance an open, free, and secure Internet. The goal of this project is to contribute to FOC's work on promoting digital equality and inclusion by developing a shared understanding of the key issues and developing themes in this area.

Methods

For this project, we conducted a landscape analysis of digital inclusion priorities across 37 countries to gain insights into their nationwide approaches towards fostering digital equity and accessibility.

The analysis was structured around key thematic areas of digital inclusion including internet accessibility, digital literacy programs, affordability of digital services, and the implementation of inclusive policies and regulations. Additionally, we examined the challenges and barriers faced by each country in achieving their digital inclusion goals. By triangulating data from multiple sources and adopting a combination of research methods (comprehensive desk research, landscape analysis, etc.), we ensured the validity and reliability of our findings.

Results

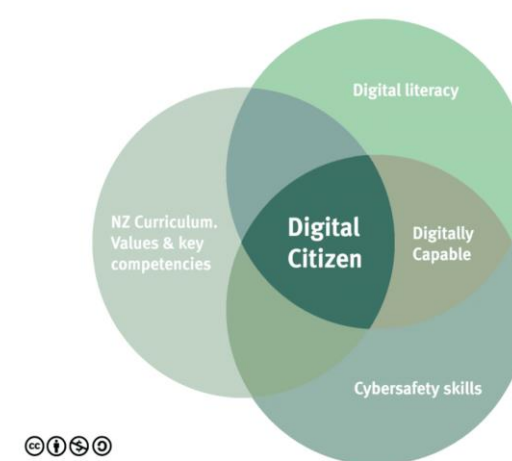
Glossary of Terms on Digital Equality

We developed a glossary describing how key terms in the digital inclusion space are used by the academics, policymakers, and non-government organizations. The purpose was to gain a common understanding of digital equality globally; this will help ensure that all individuals can exercise their democratic rights and have an equal stake in shaping their digital communities.

The glossary is divided into the following categories:

- Digital Access and Infrastructure
- Dimensions of Digital Equality
- Digital Governance
- Digital Rights and Safety
- Digital Skills and Motivation
- Digital Technology

Figure 1: How NetSafe New Zealand defines what encompasses the term *Digital Citizen* listed under the *Digital Governance* category



Annotated Bibliography of National Strategies, Priorities, and Key Scholarship on Digital Equality

Catalogued national initiatives of digital equality and inclusion led by FOC member states. Our findings purport that while nearly all FOC member states' governments recognize the importance of formulating agendas to harness the potential of a digitalized society, there are significant disparities in terms of levels of digital inclusion and research resources and fundings dedicated to the mitigation of it. As fast-evolving a field as digital equality is, closer collaboration among key stakeholders is in pressing need.

Conclusion

Our research findings:

1. **Discrepancies in research resources and funding** on digital rights between the Global South and the Global North are creating significant barriers for international cooperation.
2. There is an **evolving understanding of digital divide** in the research landscape and the cost of connectivity has emerged as a new research focus.
3. Several countries in the European Union and the European Economic Area, such as **Iceland and Estonia, are leading initiatives to offer innovative digital government services** (eGovernment).
4. Nearly all FOC member states' governments recognize the importance of formulating agendas to harness the potential of a digitalized society. Promoting digital skills and motivation has gained global acceptance as mainstream approach to boost digital inclusion.

References

All papers, government strategy plans, and related scholarships can be found in our repository folder.

Figure 1: [DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP AND DIGITAL LITERACY](#)

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