Mater Dei College
College of Arts and Sciences, Teacher Education
General Education

Lesson 8 Learning Module
Science, Technology, and Society
Ms. Vanesa Mae O. Bacolot

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOME

➢ *Understand professional, ethical, legal, security and social issues and responsibilities in the utilization of information technology.*

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME

➢ *Discuss Information Age;*
➢ *Outline the history of Information Age;*
➢ *Spot truthful news from fake news;*
➢ *Explain instances of cyberbullying; and*
➢ *Cite the importance of Information Age in various aspects of the society.*

LEARNING CONTENT: INFORMATION AGE

I.   INTRODUCTION

Our society nowadays can be described as technologically advanced, data-driven, fast paces, and modern. Information is easily accessed and shared. Various areas of our society are continuously being influenced by this very fast pace of modernization. We can clearly see and experience how the economy, industry, business, transportation, education, health, and environment are being transformed because of digital age.

This rapid development and progression of digital age poses some disadvantages. Sometimes people are easily misinformed and deceived because of fake news or false information from various social media platforms. It is essential that one has to filter the information available before believing, sharing, and utilizing such information.

II.   LESSON CONTENT

The Information Age is believed to have started in the last quarter of the 20th century and it is characterized by rapid, effortless access, and management of information through written or digital publications with the use of computers and computer networks. There is rapid evolution and advancement in the way by which humans convey message, information, and emotions through writing, painting, coding, and others. Because the Information Age can be closely linked with the development and application of computers in various aspects of the society, it is also referred to as the Digital Age and the New Media Age.

As man evolved, Information and its dissemination has also evolved in many ways eventually. We no longer keep them to ourselves; instead, we share them and manage them in different means. Information gets ahead of us. It started to grow at a rate where we were incapable to handle. Because of the abundance of Information, it was difficult to collect and manage them starting in the late 1960s and early 1970s. During the 1980s, real angst set in. Richard Wurman called it "Information Anxiety." In the 1990s, information became the currency in the business world. Information was the preferred medium of exchange and the information managers served as information officers.

In the present generation, there is no doubt that information has turned out to be a commodity, an overdeveloped product, mass-produced, and unspecialized. Soon, we became overloaded with it.

Different authors have diverse, contrasting ideas on the evolution of the Information Age. In spite of this, we can still say that information is a very important tool that helps improve our way of life. One thing is for sure, the Information Age will continue to move forward and far greater our minds could imagine.

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Because of Information Age, several fields or disciplines have merged. Among these fields include AI or Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Robotics, Cloud and Edge Computing. Automation, Blockchain, Outsourcing. Software and Applications, and Communications and Networking among others. With these, cybersecurity and data privacy laws have also been implemented to protect one's digital self.

Which of the listed emerging fields are you interested to explore? Why?

Science and Information Age

Like how Information Age gradually transformed our workplace, it also affected the scientific community. With the availability of computers and the internet, vast amount of information is readily available in just a click.

Some experiments can now be performed digitally by employing automated experimental techniques. Before, it is so painstaking to actually collect and process data due to size and technical difficulty. Nowadays, because of bioinformatics, scientists apply the principles of computer science and statistical algorithms to store, process, and analyze extensive collection of data (Kantardjieff K. and Ng Thow Hing M. 2012).

Furthermore, researchers and scientists can now easily share their experimental results and recommendations, access and store information with the use of internet. Indeed, technological capabilities have advanced rapidly than our ability to comprehend and utilize them maximally.

The availability of wide range of information at hand also entails the call for responsible generation of information and proper citation and recognition of authors and publishers.

Information Age and Cyberbullying

Words are so powerful that they can either make or break people and relationships. Words spoken, written, and shared or posted through the social media sites can strengthen, inspire, offend, and hurt other people who read them."

It is undeniable that our social media has shaped recent events. It does not only update us of current events but can also provoke us. We often see posts and commentaries that are meant to embarrass, offend, criticize, or threaten people.

Indeed, such acts have legal implications under Philippine laws. It is but proper to visit the laws governing rights of people against cyberbullying.

The Emergence of Fake News

If truthful news is available, so does fake news. This fake news continues to circulate throughout various forms of print and nonprint media. Pew Research Center showed that for people under 30, online news is becoming more popular than TV news while those people under 50 get half of their news online and the rest on TV.

Fake news is becoming viral because there are more and more people being involved in disseminating them. Sometimes it is easier and more convenient for people to share the fake news than to actually go over the information and evaluate for its reliability.

One more factor that contributes to rapid dissemination of fake news is confirmation bias. People tend to accept information that confirms their beliefs and opinions. It is a sense of pleasure to share information they believe in even if it may not actually be truthful or valid.

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How to Spot Fake News?

Fake news tends to spread as fast as contagious diseases are. So, it is just necessary to be guided and guarded from the ignorance and further damage that can be brought about by misinformation.

The following practical tips from Nagler, C. (2017) of Harvard Division of Continuing Education can help us spot a fake news.

1. Vet the publisher's credibility.

Try to consider these questions whenever we see an article that captures our attention.

- Would the publishing site meet the academic citation standards?
- What is the domain name?
- What is the publication's point of view?
- Who is the author?
2. Pay attention to quality and timeliness.

Notice spelling errors and dramatic punctuations from the article. Check if the story is current or recycled.

3. Check the sources and citations.
- How did you find the article?
- Who is (or is not) quoted, and what do they say?
- Is the information available on other sites?
- Can you perform reverse researches and images?

A reliable article is usually quoted or posted on other websites. Library databases can be used for confirming the credibility of information presented in an article. Also by checking cited sources, you can confirm that the information presented has been accurately applied and not modified to satisfy the author's point of view. Images should also be taken into consideration especially if they seem edited just to conform to the concept suggested in the article or story.

III.   PERFORMANCE TASK/ASSESSMENT

Instructions: The Information Age has significantly influenced various aspects of the society throughout time. In the following activity, let us try to trace and analyze how has the Information Age shaped our lives. Fill out the list below by indicating how these areas are influenced by Information Age. You may add other areas if needed.

- Education
- Health and Medicine
- Transportation

- Business
- Economy
- Communication