

# Review of: "New Terms for the Educators' Digital Lexicon"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper touches upon an interesting and important topic, which is typically referred to as “digital divide”, particularly “2nd level divide” (the one in competences and skills, not in pure means of access to the Internet <sup>[1]</sup>). The authors are primarily concerned with the impact of 2nd level divide on education, with the assumption that educators usually possess lower level of digital skills than educated (due to obvious age considerations). The authors also introduce an important and reasonable idea that the level of digital skills is a continuum, rather than a binary opposition of “skilled” and “unskilled”.

Yet the idea is not elaborated by the authors, neither conceptually, nor empirically. On the conceptual side the paper lacks the usual discipline of literature review, basically the authors refer to two books by one author (Mark Prensky). In a sense the paper could be approached as a polemical review of those, yet in this case it lacks the depth of analysis of the books' content.

The authors suggest introducing yet another label for those with low level of digital skills (calling them “digital Neanderthals”), which undermines their own idea of digital literacy as a continuum. The concept is poorly defined, the “Neanderthal” group can hardly be captured in an empiric study with enough rigour. The authors' idea that interaction between educators and educated will differ depending on the gap in their digital skills is quite obvious (authors introduce two more labels, “digital discord” and “digital concordance”, for wide and narrow gap respectively). The question “how exactly the interaction differs?” is not addressed neither through speculation, nor through field study. This defies the possibility of answering the important practical question of what actions can/should be taken to address the issue - by either side of the education process or by any sort of arbiter/moderator.

## References

1. <sup>^</sup> Eszter Hargittai. (2002). *Second-Level Digital Divide: Differences in People's Online Skills*. doi:10.5210/fm.v7i4.942.