



Toward Crip Digital Citizenship: Disrupting Normative Frameworks Regulating Disabled Digital Life

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Digital Citizenship Overview

- What is digital citizenship?
- What does literature tell us about digital citizenship?
 - rights, responsibilities, and civic participation reflected through digital technologies
 - values, skills, attitudes, knowledge, and understanding citizens require in a digital era

(Gutiérrez-Aguilar et al., 2024; Rahman, 2025; van Toorn & Cox, 2024; Webster, 2025)

Critiques of Dominant Frameworks

- Hegemonic and normative
- Neoliberal rationality
- Digitalization as inherently good
- Digital citizen as an aspirational figure

(van Toorn and Cox, 2024)



Disabled Digital Life

- Access, inclusion, and representation shape digital life
- Idealized disabled digital citizen is productive and self sufficient

(van Toorn and Cox, 2024)

- New insights from crip digital intimacy (Johnson et al., 2024) and crip technoscience (Furlong, 2023)



Gaps in Research on Disabled Young People

- we know very little about digital citizenship for children with disabilities (Alper & Goggin, 2017)
- even less research about what the conditions for such “citizenship” looks like for disabled young people
- could not find any studies asking disabled young people directly about what digital citizenship means to them, especially not work framed through crip theory





Disabled Digital Citizenship

- Youth with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities have less access and participation
- 30% less likely to receive social media instruction
- 87% more likely to find instruction helpful

(Fisher et al., 2021)

Scholars have called for more investment in digital citizenship education and support for disabled youth and other marginalized young people.

(Bueso, 2022; Jones & Mitchell, 2016; Lee et al., 2023)

Access as a Human Right

Access to digital technologies is a human right under the CRPD

Despite this, many disabled people face digital exclusion

(Goggin et al., 2024; UN, 2006)



Crippling Digital Identity

- Resisting compulsory able-bodiedness by deciding to “come out” crip online
- personal - embodied - political

(Bueso, 2022; Green, 2021; Ellis & Howells, 2023)



Toward Crip Digital Citizenship

- Moving beyond productivity and normativity
- Values non-normative bodyminds
- Centers access making, relationality, and interdependence
- Opens space to explore the tensions of “citizenship”



THANK YOU!



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