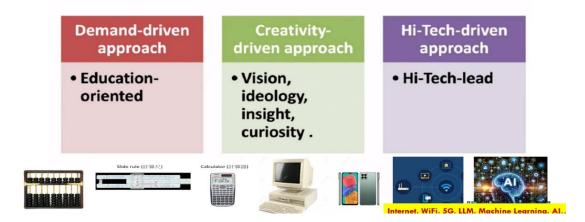
Project Title:	Promotion	and	Strategy	for Fa	aculty a	and Staff
	Developmen	nt of	f Digital	Litera	acy for	• Future
	Readiness					

- Investigator: Dr. Haydn Chen, Professor Emeritus, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Duration: September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2026

Preface

In the realm of academia, the landscape of higher education is undergoing a profound transformation, propelled by the relentless march of technological advancements and the emergence of artificial intelligence (AI). Within this dynamic environment, the cultivation of essential skills and competencies has become a cornerstone of preparing individuals to navigate the complexities of the digital age. Follow figure illustrates the evolution of education industry, from demand-driven to creativity-driven, to hi-tech-driven approach.





Central to this paradigm shift are the educators, the custodians of knowledge and mentors of the future generation. As the vanguards of education, teachers play a pivotal role in shaping the minds of tomorrow, equipping students with not only technical proficiency but also the crucial soft skills necessary to thrive in an ever-evolving society. The fusion of digital literacy (DL) and soft skills (SS) has emerged as a critical imperative in higher education. This integration underscores the importance of adapting to the demands of the digital era, where the ability to navigate complex technological landscapes and communicate effectively in a digital world are essential skills for success.

Description of Work

In the context of artificial intelligence and high-tech technology, the need for continuous learning and adaptation is paramount. Educators must adopt innovative teaching methods, leverage cutting-edge technology, and cultivate a culture of lifelong learning to empower students to excel in an AI-dominated world. This proposal address the need, objectives, approaches to promote as well as strategize the faculty and staff development in Digital Literacy for future readiness in higher education institutions. It is to be clarified that the Digital Literary is the preparation of individuals to be able to utilize digital tools and technologies to search, evaluate, create and communicate information, leading to efficient and ethical solutions or strategizing decisions. The long-range goal of the project is to advance the faculty development to a higher level of competence that involves not just using the digital tools but also understanding how to apply them in various contexts creatively and effectively – a stage of Digital Fluency, which is to be carried out at the conclusion of the current proposal.

The main parts of proposed work involve two segments: Promotion and Strategy. The purposes of the work are to 1) bring awareness to the faculty and staff about the importance and necessity of digital literacy for future readiness in higher education; 2) to develop strategy for effective training programs on digital literacy for faculty and staff in selected universities. The primary role of the consultant is to provide expertise and advice and feedback to institutions, departments and individual as they strive to accomplish educational reforms necessary to meet existing and emerging needs.