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Transliteracy Articles- Session 1 Assignment

Before reading this assignment, I had never heard of the word, “transliteracy” so I skimmed a few of the articles and websites listed and decided to go with the first one that could tell me exactly what transliteracy was. The website I settled on was actually a librarian’s blog titled “Librarian By Day” (Newman, 2010). In it, Ms. Newman gave a brief history of the word, transliteracy, as well as stating what it was and how it differs from media and digital literacy.

To highlight the blog, Ms. Newman stated that the word, transliteracy, actually came from the Transliteracies Research Project in 2005 (Newman, 2010) which was established for the purpose of bringing scholars of all backgrounds together to accomplish such goals as train graduate students, “publish research and demonstration software,” (Newman, 2010) and study online reading from the viewpoints of the varied backgrounds of the group involved.

Ms. Newman defined transliteracy as “the ability to read, write, and interact across a range of platforms, tools and media from signing and orality through handwriting, print, TV, radio and film, to digital social networks” (Newman, 2010). So what I take from her definition is that transliteracy is being able to function, interact, and communicate in all areas that deal with the internet. This is different from media literacy and digital literacy because transliteracy is a broader study of reading, writing, and communication across the internet’s many facets.

Transliteracy was not a new concept when this blog was written in 2010, only that it was named

around the time of the blog. To back this up about transliteracy not being new, Ms. Newman stated that we aren't "seeing any new communication styles, only new ways of capturing and sharing those communications," (Newman, 2010). Maybe in the past we could only see an event if it were live, or maybe we had to wait until someone showed us a physical photo of someone else to see what they looked like. However, now the computer and the internet's factions give us the ability to view these things instantaneously.

I enjoyed reading the blog and I am happy to say that I now understand what transliteracy is and what it entails. Blogs aren't always informative but "Librarian By Day" taught me quite a bit.

Works Cited

Newman, B. (2010, March 8). *Librarian By Day*. Retrieved from librarianbyday.net:

<https://librarianbyday.net/2010/03/08/defining-transliteracy/>