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# Doing Research on Digital Technologies for Children and Adolescents

## Panel Session Paper

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## Abstract

The purpose of this panel is to discuss about experiences and challenges when doing research about the use of digital technologies by children and adolescents, based on the lessons drawn from the EU Digymatex project<sup>1</sup>. The main objective of the Digymatex project is to provide evidence-based tools to assist in understanding children's digital maturity, as well as how children's digital maturity and its dimensions maximize benefits and minimize risks associated with children's technology-related behavior. These tools, based upon thorough research, are intended to be applied by various stakeholders, such as children, families, school administrators and teachers, scientists, companies, and policy makers.

The concept of digital maturity in children is a multi-dimensional one comprising three main capacities that directly address the digital challenges of young people: the capacity to use digital technologies in an autonomous and self-determined way; the capacity to master increasing digital challenges and solve problems; and the capacity to interact adequately with others and contribute to society (Laaber et al., 2023).

The panel will focus on four aspects that we consider critical in doing research about digital technologies for children:

- Development of focus groups with children and adolescents.
- Development and validation of digital maturity inventory
- Managing repositories with data about children.
- Use of Emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence to do research with children and adolescents.

Panel participants are actively involved in the Digymatex project. Each panelist will describe first-hand experiences related to doing research about children and will provide overview of the challenges they faced.

## References

Laaber, F., Florack, A., Koch, T., and Hubert, M. "Digital maturity: Development and validation of the Digital Maturity Inventory (DIMI)", *Computers in Human Behavior*, 143, p.107709.

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<sup>1</sup> The work presented here has been developed in the context of the Digymatex project. This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 870578. The results presented here reflects only the authors' view, and the European Union is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.