



What is the Digital Divide?

Read. Watch. Listen.

READ

Browne, Carol Ann and Smith, Brad. [*Tools and Weapons: The Promise and the Peril of the Digital Age. inventors and the relentless pursuit of clean energy.*](#) Penguin Random House, 2019.

Microsoft President Brad Smith explains how the world has turned information technology into both a powerful tool and a formidable weapon. If companies that create technology don't accept responsibility for the future as technology progresses and governments don't regulate technology and keep pace with innovation, what ethical dilemmas and power struggles will emerge between nations?

DIGITAL RESOURCES

Opposing Viewpoints in Context

Access this resource at www.sclid.org/opposing-viewpoints

Search "digital divide" after clicking through to this resource.

PRINT & OTHER MATERIALS IN OUR CATALOG

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Rafalow, Matthew H. [*Digital Divisions: How Schools Create Inequality in the Tech Era.*](#) University of Chicago Press, 2020.

Google social scientist Matthew H. Rafalow explores the expectations that are put on students' technical skills according to their race and class. Through case studies at middle schools serving variously affluent, middle-income, and low-income students, Rafalow explores how schools produce users of digital technology. He finds that, in their interactions with peers, students at all three schools use digital technology in sophisticated and creative ways. However, only the teachers in the school serving (mostly white) affluent students help translate the skills students develop through their digital play into educational capital. Rafalo argues that closing the digital divide is about much more than access: it's about attitudes.

Smibert, Angie. [*The Digital Divide: 12 Things You Need to Know.*](#) 12 Story Library, 2016.

In this nonfiction children's book, Smibert lays out the basic types of digital divides, how they came to exist, and what the barriers are for closing the digital divide.



Read. Watch. Listen.

WATCH

[*Without A Net: The Digital Divide in America*](#). Dir. Rorey Kennedy. Moxie Firecracker Films, distributed by National Geographic Channel, 26 September 2017.

Educators discuss the increase in jobs that require use of technology and what they need to prepare their students. The obstacles include getting computers students can use all day instead of once a week, training teachers on how to effectively use technology in their classroom, and implementing expensive systems in rural areas, and all stand in the way of student learning.

LISTEN

“Dr. Nicol Turner Lee on the ‘digitally invisible’.” *The Divide*, Light Reading, 11 February 2021. <https://www.lightreading.com/opticalip/fttx/podcast---divide-dr-nicol-turner-lee-on-digitally-invisible/v/d-id/767278>

Researcher Dr. Nicol Turner Lee discusses her 10-city tour investigating the digital divide in the U.S. She discusses the research for her forthcoming book, *Digitally Invisible: How the Internet is Creating the New Underclass*, including the services that cannot be accessed without technology, such as Uber and food delivery, what is and isn't working when it comes to telecommunications policy, and best practices learned from public-private partnerships to get people connected during the pandemic.

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