

ABSTRACT

Rilda, A. (2025). **The Role of Digital Literacy in Shaping Students' Reading Skills: A Case Study at SMPN 7 Kota Jambi**. A Thesis. English Education Study Program. Faculty of Teacher Training and Education of Jambi University in Academic Year 2025/2026. The first supervisor is Drs. Saharudin, M.Ed., M.App.Sc., Ph.D. The second supervisor is Dr. Rd. M. Ali, S.Pd., M.Pd.

This study investigates the role of digital literacy in shaping students' reading skills within the English as a Foreign Language (EFL) context in Indonesia. It emphasizes the need to integrate digital literacy into English instruction so students can effectively access, evaluate, and use digital information to enhance comprehension in a digital environment. The study explores how the English teacher perceives and applies digital literacy and its practices in developing students' reading skills and how students perceive and experience the digital literacy practices to enhance their reading skills. A qualitative case study was conducted at SMPN 7 Kota Jambi involving one English teacher and three 9th-grade students selected purposively. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews and classroom observation, then analyzed thematically. The findings reveal two key aspects: (a) the teacher perceives and applies digital literacy and its practices as an effective means to enhance students' reading comprehension and motivation through digital tools such as Canva, videos, and visual texts; and (b) students perceive and experience digital literacy practices as a supportive medium that promotes understanding, engagement, and independent learning through resources such as Google, ChatGPT, and digital books. Observations confirmed that tools such as Canva and multimedia foster comprehension, creativity, and collaboration, though long texts without visuals remain challenging. The study concludes that balanced integration of digital literacy in EFL learning enhances students' engagement, motivation, reading comprehension, and independent learning.

Keywords: *Digital literacy, Educational Technology, EFL Context, English Language Teaching, Reading Skills*