

# Closing the Digital Divide: Using Technology to Support Multilingual Families

Dr. Misty LaCour, Professor  
Alexis Selby, Graduate Student  
Department of Education and Communication  
College of Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Purdue University Global

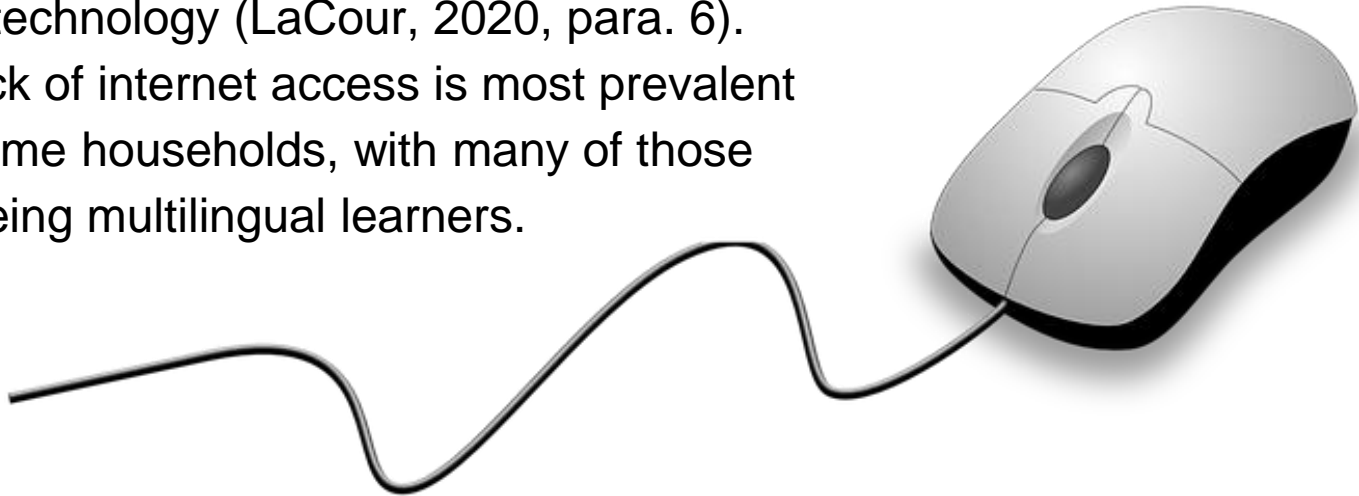
# Background

- Number of Multilingual learners is increasing in K-12 classrooms in the United States
- The literacy gap between English-only students and multilingual students is widening.



# Digital Literacy

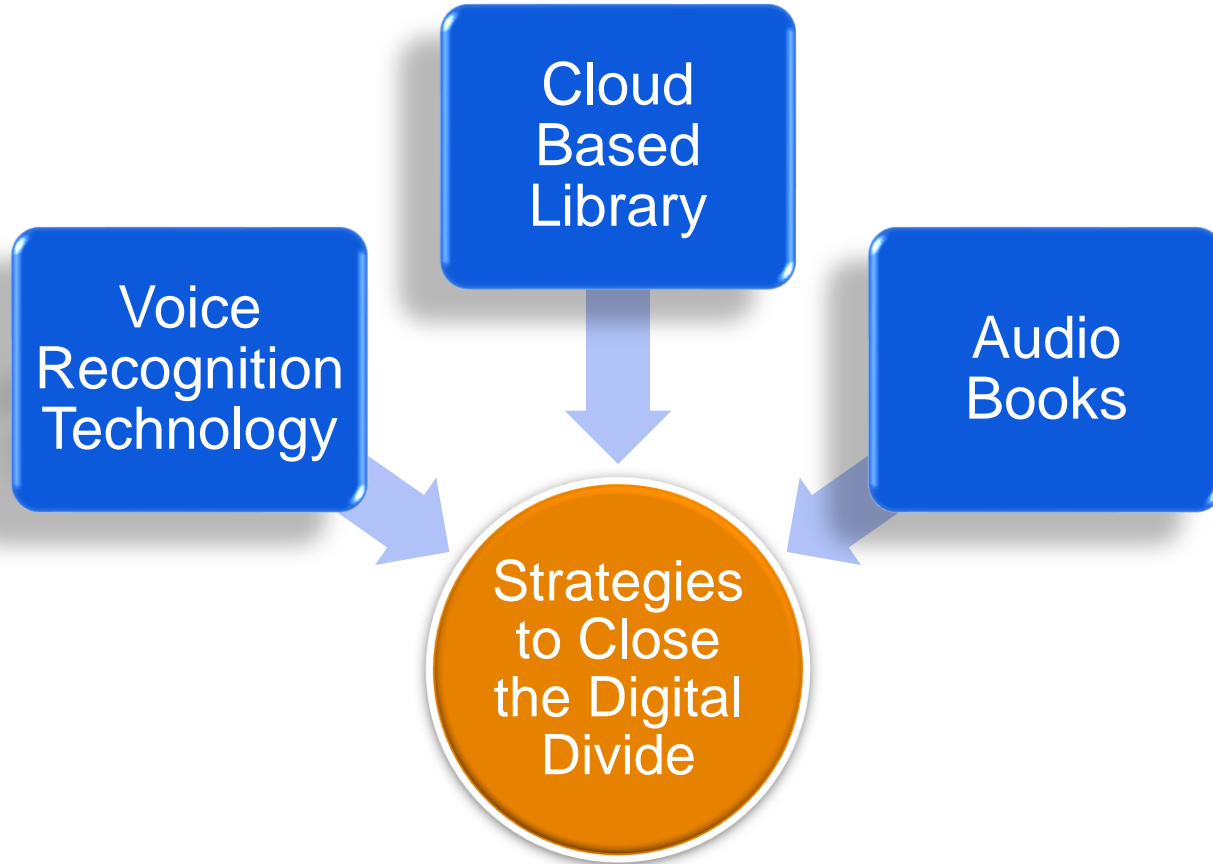
- Required literacy skills for today's students includes digital literacy.
- With the onset of COVID-19, "one primary difference that emerged was the inequity in the educational support" related to technology (LaCour, 2020, para. 6).
- The lack of internet access is most prevalent in low-income households, with many of those children being multilingual learners.



# Digital Divide

➤ Digital Divide is a gap that

- \* Exists in the availability of personal technology and/or Internet connection in many homes of multilingual learners with low socioeconomic status.
- \* Results in the lack of access to information and
- Leads to an excellence gap in education



# Voice Recognition Technology



- Use Programs such as Rosetta Stone
- The Programs can be purchased by the school district if possible
- Use free downloadable smartphone apps such as DuoLingo
- Use of the programs extend literacy development by providing students further speaking practice outside school
- Programs can be used by students and families

## Cloud Based Library

- ❖ Download materials at school or anywhere with a wifi connection.
- ❖ Students can access the downloaded materials at home with or without wifi access.
- ❖ The library should contain both English-only and multilingual books.





# Audio Books



Audiobooks help multilingual learners to hear correct pronunciation of English words



Students can repeat what they hear



Students can follow along in a printed or e-book while listening to the words being read by the audiobook



Audiobooks can be made available in the school library or cloud-based library



# References

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