

Martha Lane Fox:

It's remarkable that around 90% of us in the UK have the ability to use the internet. We do however have a way to go to close the gap and include those who are still without the skills or the access, which will enable us to build a fairer society. The failure to plug the digital skills gap costs the UK billions per year. But I believe we need to think beyond digital skills – beyond being able to use a particular device or download an app, because these things change as technology moves on. By focusing on our own digital literacy, our digital understanding, and the thought processes which allow us to use a search engine, we can more critically separate fact from fiction, and make sense of what we find.

We need to interact with others respectfully while managing our digital identities. We need to be able to shop and bank online, and yet be mindful about what we share, and with whom. This is a lifelong process of learning – one unique to each of us as individuals, as consumers, as workers, and as members of society.

Studying with the Open University and OpenLearn gives you a unique opportunity to improve your digital skills and to ensure you are suitably prepared to succeed in a digital world.