Common Terms and Definitions

**Blog:** An informal internet information platform typically updated by a single person or small group of individuals with regularity. Content can range from useful and verified information to radical opinions, speculations or conspiracies.

**Cookie:** A file transferred to a user’s computer from a website they are visiting that allows the website a degree of interaction. Regulations around transparency on the use of cookies has improved, though many websites only entry on acceptance of cookies.

**Digital citizenship:** Personal conduct on digital media that exhibits respect for the rights, privacy and dignity of others.

**Digital footprint:** Traceable elements left when a user uploads something to social media, especially their IP address.

**Digital literacy:** A set of skills and knowledge related to finding, evaluating, creating and communicating accurate information using digital technology.

**Disinformation:** Fabricated and false information that is knowingly and intentionally broadcast. Historically referred to as *propaganda*.

**Fake news:** A colloquialism for disinformation or propaganda; false or misleading information presented as factual news, often for profit or other self-serving interest.

**Hyperlink:** Text that moves the user to different but usually related internet content by simple clicking.

**Intellectual property:** A type of property that includes products of the human mind, e.g., creative works (writing, photographs, art and music) and inventions (or patents).

**Lateral reading:** Finding information about an online source by using a search engine to seek third-party information about that source.

**Misinformation:** Incomplete, unverified or misleading information that results from poor digital literacy but not necessarily malicious intent, as is disinformation.

**Search engine:** A digital technology application that gives users access to information based on terms that users type and enter. Search engine results can be skewed for financial or other reasons.

**Social media:** Online platforms or tools that allow users to create and share digital content in either public or private networks.
Common Terms and Definitions

**Web Privacy**: The basic rights of every internet user to protect their personal information from unwanted disclosure; also known as online privacy or internet privacy. Web privacy demands active vigilance on the part of the user.

**Wiki**: A website or application that allows for modification by users.