Indelible Digital Footprints: a Roadmap to Online Safety for Children and Youths

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Introduction

• Media and Information Literacy is a touchstone for cities
• Cities are now moving towards an integrated and sophisticated system
• New information and communication technologies (‘ICTs’)
• Children may be exposed to inappropriate content for their age or to inappropriate contact, can suffer reputational damage associated with publishing sensitive personal information online, long-term digital footprints.
• Children are being let down by current educational systems
The Universal Declaration of Human Rights offers every person a ‘right to privacy’

MIL cities need to understand that they must become the champions of their citizens

Digital footprints are the records and traces that are left behind when using a device that links itself to the Internet.

Two types of digital footprint, the explicit and implicit

Digital footprints are currently being used for commercial purposes

Digital footprints is a loss of privacy and anonymity online
Indelible Digital Footprints

- MIL smart cities therefore need to create an action plan; a road map
- The finality of things being indelible is that, like walking barefoot on fresh concrete, the footprints are not only there for everyone to see but that they are permanent
- Humans forget mistakes and foibles but the ‘internet’ stores and holds information
- MIL is a way in which to educate and inform and address the needs of the current civic society
Action Plan

• The cities' mission is to provide young people reliable information about how to use ICT technologies safely and appropriately
• Smart cities must ultimately create a road map that addresses the needs of K-12 students to be used in the formal education system to equip students with the required knowledge to safely use ICTs
• The vision should be one that change happens on a governmental level so that change can happen on both a grass root and top down level
• Current legislation requires that educators and K-12 students to be informed on online safety
The Road Map

First
• Students need to improve their understanding of the basic issues

Second
• Both educators and students need to be taught how to manage their own data

Third
• Understanding what the knock-on effects of what students do online

Where
Libraries hold the keys to creating environments of lifelong learning
Conclusion

• Smart cities, so they can stimulate economic growth, critical thinking and civic engagement
• Dynamic environments of media, information and technology
• Students flourish by investing in education and literacy
• Creating a smart city requires investment and as libraries as the core they can create a society that is based on understanding