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

Digital Footprints

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