

IN BETWEEN DIGITAL DIVIDE AND DIGITAL LITERACY: NAVIGATING DATA SCIENCE FOR THE RISE OF INDONESIA'S INFORMATION SOCIETY

A. Safril MUBAH¹, Muhammad MIFTAHUSSURUR²

Universitas Airlangga, Airlangga Global Engagment, Surabaya, Indonesia¹,

*Universitas Airlangga, Vice Rector for Internationalisation, Digitalisation and Information,
Surabaya, Indonesia²*

Over the last few years, Indonesian government has made a great effort to promote digital literacy across the country. In 2016, the government launched the project namely the Palapa Ring to build fiber-optic infrastructure connecting all areas of the nation. Moreover, the government has since 2021 introduced national digital literacy program by organizing the digital trainings for 12.4 million people every year. The growing networks of communication among areas have shifted Indonesian people to information society and contributed to narrow digital divide among all provinces around the archipelago. According to East Ventures' Digital Competitiveness Index 2023, there is a consistent improvement in digital competitiveness between middle and lower ranking provinces. However, six provinces of Java Island are dominating the top rankings. It indicates that digital divide is still an existing problem in Indonesia. This paper investigates Indonesia's efforts to bridge the gap between digital divide and digital literacy. Unlike digital divide that focuses only on access to digital tools, digital literacy means the ability to use digital skills. It finds that data science competences are significant for employing the digital skills to utilize digital tools.