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The digital information skills of metal industry employees: Who is at risk of digital exclusion?

The study examines the digital information skills of metal industry employees by position (clerical/production worker), age, gender, education, and digital technology usage. Digital information skills are unequally distributed in society. The different positions of employees in the workplace affect whether individuals gain experience in using digital devices. The theoretical framework of the study is van Dijk's Resources and Appropriation Theory. The employees' (N = 270) information skills were tested with a digital skills test. Production workers use significantly less digital technology during their working day compared to clerical employees, and their information skills were inferior to those of the clerical employees. According to the regression analysis, digital information skills are mostly explained by education level and the use of digital tools at work. The opportunity to use digital tools at work is a more significant predictor than a person's position in the workplace. For production workers, the most important explanation of information skills is the experience of using digital tools at work. For clerical employees, information skills are explained by the level of education. The research shows that the use of digital tools at work is much more important than the use of digital technology in leisure time.

**Keywords:** digital information skills, metal industry, production workers, clerical employees, digital exclusion