



## Core Research Area: Reducing the Digital Divide

The digital divide refers to the gap between individuals with access to modern information technology and individuals without such access. The term is most often used to refer to differences between high income and low income countries. However, even within high income societies, there is a digital divide between digitally literate individuals and people without access to technology and / or without the social resources to support the use of such technology. Reducing the digital divide has long been recognized as a major challenge for global politics, as well as for today's societies. In the future, reducing the digital divide is likely to become an increasingly important goal for TEL research, as well.

Facilitating technology spread is one important research goal in this core area. Furthermore, the development of new technologies that specifically support minorities, less educated people, handicapped people, or elderly people could be a solution. Technology might even open new opportunities to make visible the specific experiences and expertise of less advantaged groups and thus support their participation in the knowledge society. On the other hand, it is also important to explore how the educational system can help to reduce the digital divide, for instance, by providing competencies that are necessary for using the new technologies.

STELLAR