



EXPLORING DIGITAL COMPETENCIES AMONG THE GREYING POPULATION: A SCOPING REVIEW

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Overview

- Introduction
- Contextualisation
- Research design
- Knowledge synthesis
- Themes
- Concerns
- Conclusion



Introduction

- Pervasive nature of emerging and new technologies give rise to concerns
- Leaving the older generations at the periphery
- Everyday challenges they face with life activities
- Leads to exclusion and isolation from society
- Which competencies are required?
- This study explores the recent research publication trends in addressing the grey digital divide



Purpose and aim of this study

- To gauge the coverage of recent peer-reviewed articles that give a clear indication of the struggles of older adults using digital technologies as well as the level of their skills and competence with technologies
- The central question is how competent are the greying populations (older adults 60+) in using digital technologies?
- To identify gaps in current research
- To recommend further research



Research Questions

- RQ 1: How many studies have been conducted between 2015 and 2023 on the grey digital divide or digital literacy, competence or skills in older adults?
- RQ 2: : What themes are covered under the grey digital divide in the selected years?
- RQ 3: At what point does the struggle with use of digital technologies become visible?



Contextualisation

- Greying population
- Exclusion
- Inclusion
- Digital competencies
- Grey digital divide





Research Design

- Scoping review
- Peer-reviewed articles covering grey digital divide and digital divide in older adults articles in English published between 2015 and 2023, were considered when meeting the following criteria:
 - (1) the context of the discussion is on Grey digital divide
 - (2) digital competence in older adults and
 - (3) the discussion includes digital literacy and skills in older adults.

Search Strategy

- The databases include SAGE, Google Scholar, Scopus and Web of Science. Databases were queried in July 2024
- “grey digital divide”
- “digital divide in older adults”
- “digital literacy in older adults”
- “digital skills in older adults”
- “digital competences in older adults”



Search conducted as systematically as possible within the capabilities of each website.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

- Inclusion criteria: studies with connection with concept of digital divide in older adults, grey digital divide, digital inclusion/exclusion, digital skills, digital literacy or competencies in older adults, older people, elderly or seniors in the titles, abstracts or keywords were identified. With studies only in English language.
- Exclusion criteria: Studies involving grey literature, abstract, preprints, book reviews, eBooks, text books, intergenerational studies, young children, older adults below 60 years involving digital competences, digital skills were excluded. Studies also not involving humans but images and systems and in languages other than English were excluded.

Knowledge Synthesis

- The study sought to chart studies covering grey digital divide and digital divide in older adults articles in English published between 2015 and 2023
- Data was extracted from the 60 selected studies in line with the purpose of addressing the research questions
- Tabulated and summarized into themes formed from recurrent words and phrases related to the research focus

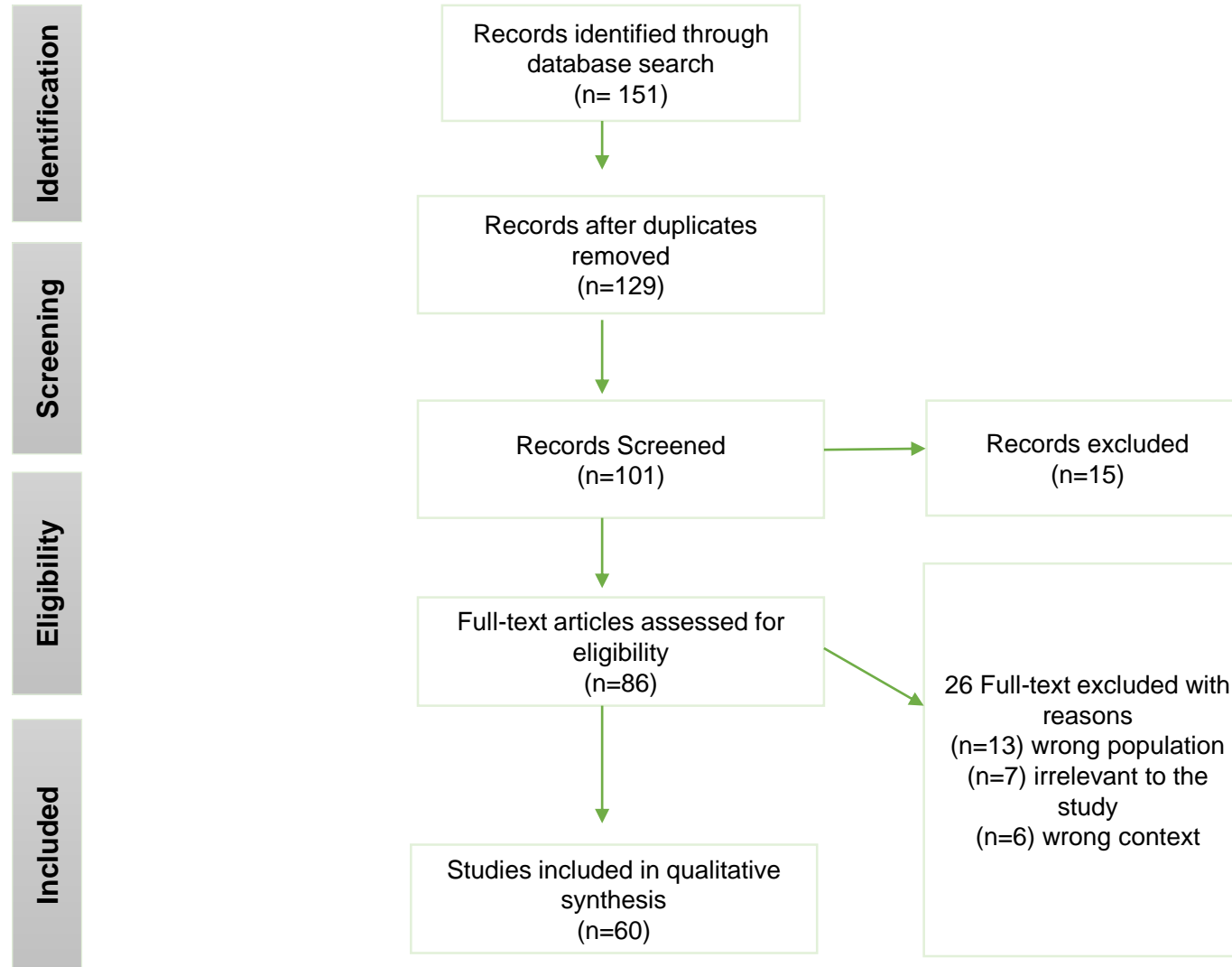
Findings and Discussion

“One of such affected populaces of the society is known as the greying population (older adults), they are left out of the technological revolution due to certain traits like personal fears, declining health conditions, unwillingness to use technologies, disinterest, inability to transfer skills, lack of competencies, absence of knowledge and skills in the use of technologies”

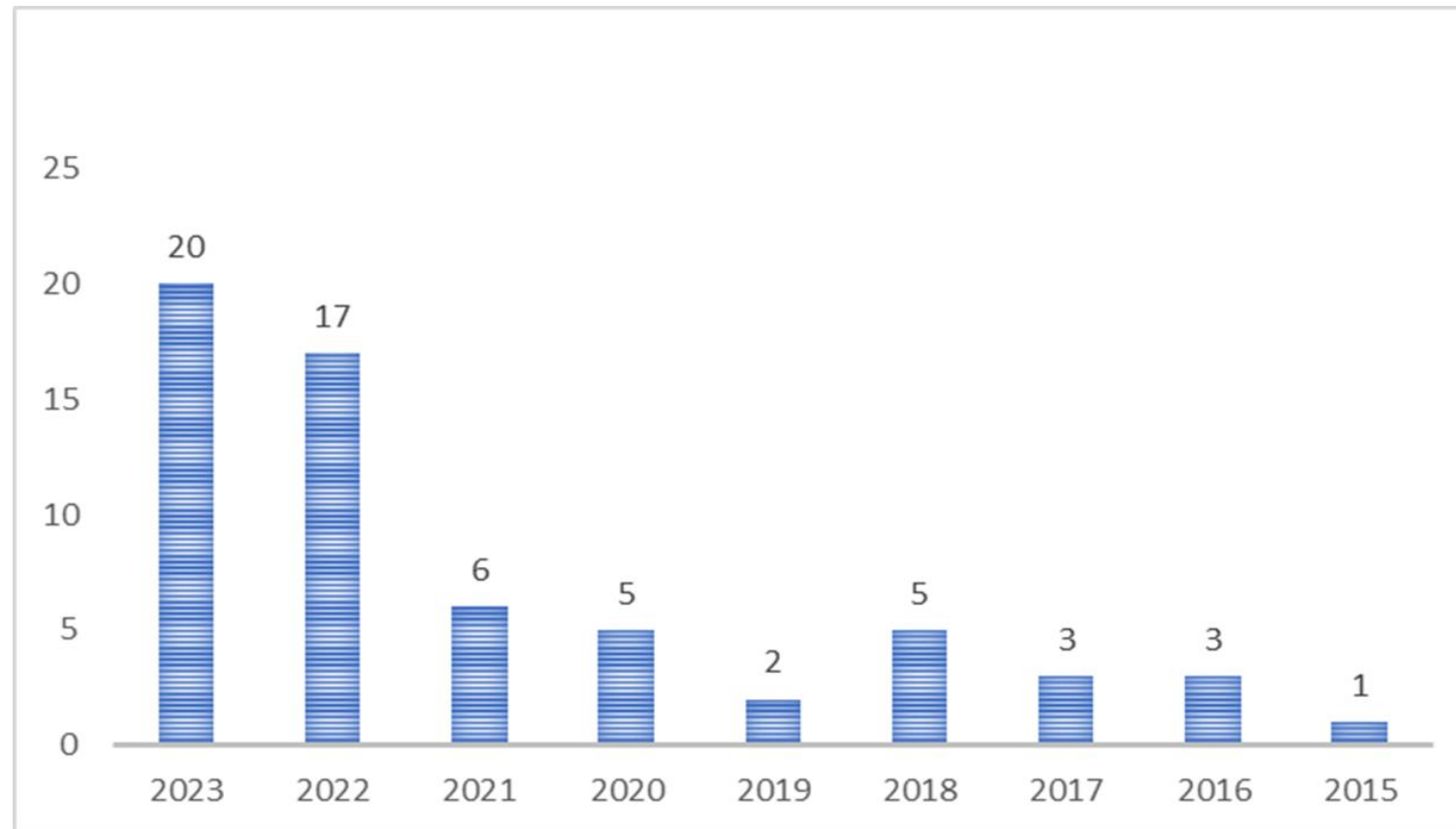
(Golenko et al 2020).



Result

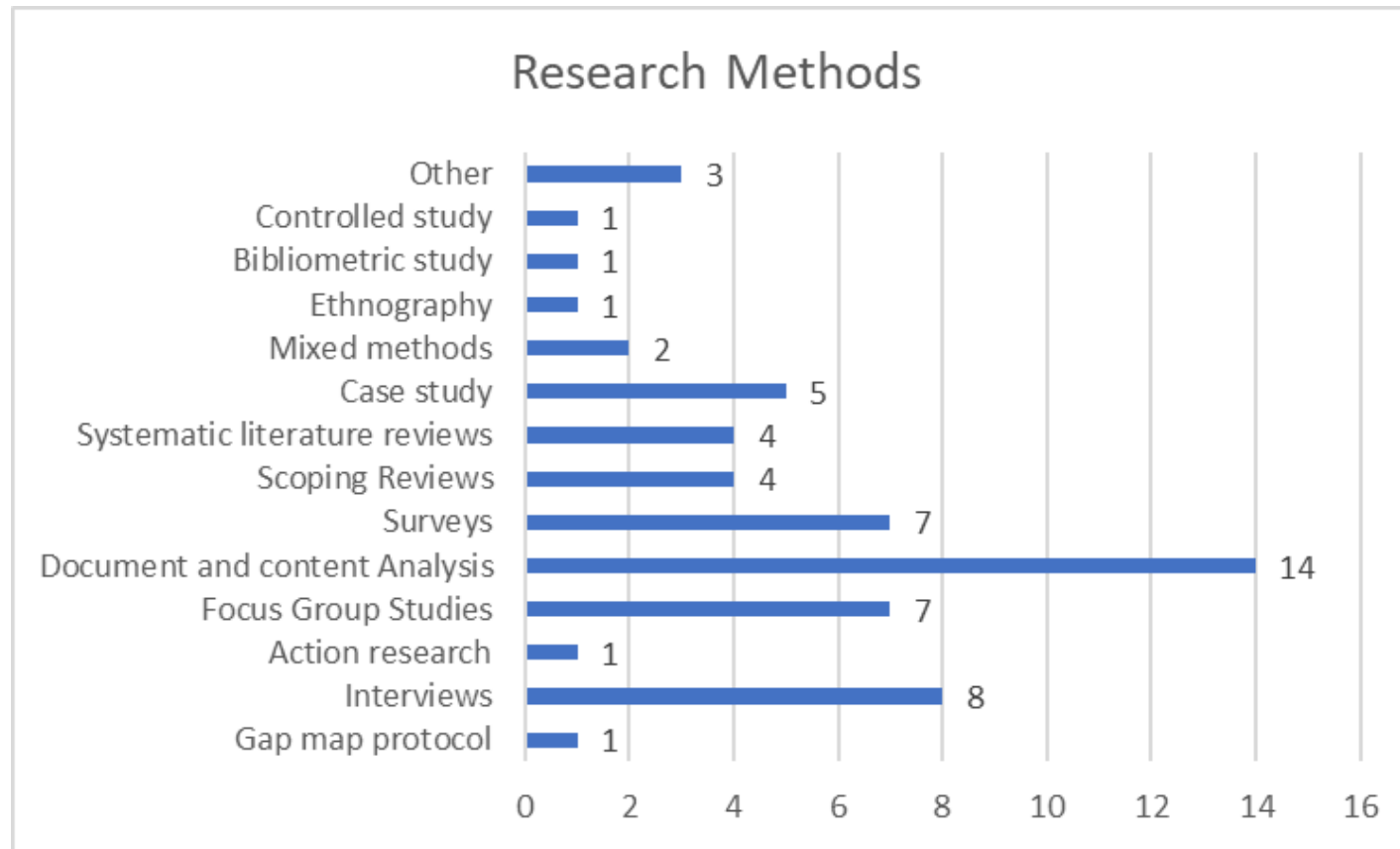


Identified studies and their methods

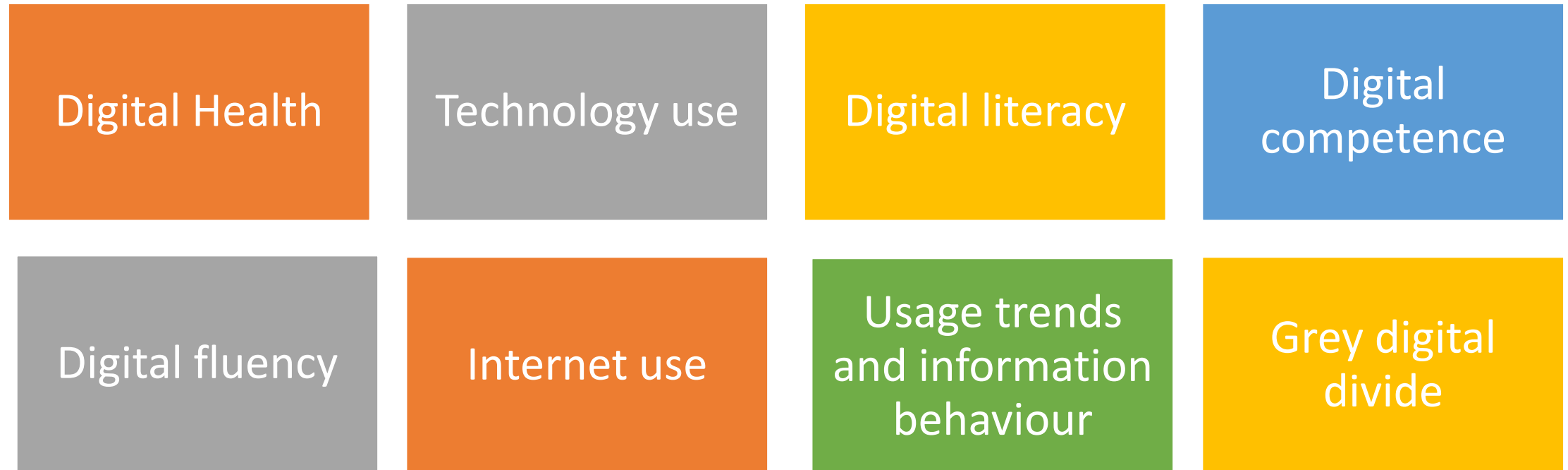


Studies from
2015- 2023

Identified Research Methods



Themes identified within the selected studies



Findings

- The selected studies all allude to the phenomenon of the declined use of technology and the internet of older people's use of technology
- There is overwhelming evidence that older generations are excluded from the affordances of technology innovations
- This global trend is reported in studies ranging from healthcare to marketing
- Essentially this leads to a group of people, mostly those over 60, who are excluded from important aspects of society
- Variant factors such as country of origin, socio-political and socio-economical factors may impact trends

Dangers of Grey digital divide

Studies allude to the dangers:

- Stereotyping older generations
- Lead to undue prejudice
- Misinformation & Disinformation
- At risk health
- Safety and security
- Exacerbating divide and exclusion



Research Gaps Identified

There is an overall call for further scientific research:

- To develop empirical, reliable findings for the sustainable bridging of the divide
- Long-term implementation of support programs for older and greying generations
- More research on interventions
- Schirmer et al (2023) opined that there is a lack of training and upskilling possibilities for retired populations, as they now fall outside of the structures of formal education

Conclusion and Recommendations

- A more interdisciplinary approach to researching the concerns around digital inclusion of greying populations
- More research needed on practical and instructional approaches for endorsing digital literacy in older adults.



Thank You..



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