TTLPro - Transformative Technology Literacy Professional vs. Certiport IC3 Digital Literacy Certification

TTLPro Transformative Technology Literacy Professional and Certiport's IC3 Digital Literacy certification address an important **shared goal**: helping people develop and demonstrate the technology literacy needed for education, employment, and professional success. However, they can be positioned to serve different but complementary purposes.

- IC3 Digital Literacy provides a standardized foundation for demonstrating essential digital literacy skills.
- TTLPro (Transformative Technology Literacy Professional) can build on foundational digital literacy by developing the ability to comprehend, communicate, evaluate, and apply transformative and emerging technologies in educational and professional settings.

For Zengage Learning, the strategic opportunity is to position TTLPro as a broader, educator-focused professional competency pathway built around the Transformative Technology Literacy Framework (TTLF), supported by TTLMS and TTLML.

1. Side-by-side comparison

Dimension	Certiport IC3 Digital Literacy	Proposed TTLPro certification
Primary purpose	Validate foundational to advanced digital literacy	Develop and recognize transformative technology literacy for professional practice
Framework	IC3 Global Standard 6 (GS6)	Transformative Technology Literacy Framework (TTLF)
Core emphasis	Digital environments, devices, content creation, online communication, security, and digital citizenship	Technology comprehension, communication, fluency, interdisciplinary understanding, and professional application
Competency model	Seven digital literacy domains across three progressive levels	Six competencies and six pillars, as defined by TTLF
Learning resources	Certiport's learning and practice ecosystem and associated training resources	40 TTLMS micro courses and supplemental TTLML resources
Assessment	Standardized, timed examinations, including simulated digital tasks	Combines knowledge assessments, applied projects, presentations, and professional portfolios

Educator development	Establishes transferable digital literacy foundations	Emphasizes applying technology literacy to teaching, instructional design, and professional development
Emerging technologies	Addresses digital skills and relevant technology concepts within its defined objectives	Organizes learning across AI, quantum computing, robotics, XR, biotechnology, and other transformative technology categories
Recognition	Established credential issued through Certiport	Recognition and employer acceptance is being established and developed for TTLPro
Best role	Demonstrating digital literacy proficiency	Demonstrating broader professional technology literacy and applied competencies

IC3 details are based on Certiport's published certification information and GS6 objectives. TTLPro's features in this comparison describe an emerging and developing program design, being independently verified by existing certification requirements.

2. What IC3 already does well

Certiport IC3 Digital Literacy

IC3 GS6 uses three progressively challenging levels:

- Level 1: Basic digital literacy knowledge.

- Level 2: Intermediate independent use of digital tools.
- Level 3: Advanced digital literacy, complex tasks, troubleshooting, and evaluation of online information.

Completing the three levels leads to the IC3 Digital Literacy Master Certification.

Its strengths include standardized examinations, defined learning objectives, practical digital tasks, and an established certification delivery infrastructure.

For learners entering college or the workforce, these foundations can be highly valuable. TTLPro should acknowledge this existing contribution rather than position basic digital literacy as something IC3 fails to address.

3. Where TTLPro differentiates itself

The strongest opportunity is utilizing TTLPro as a professional application and transformative technology literacy pathway, not simply another digital literacy test.

A. Beyond digital tools to emerging technologies

Participants develop foundational understanding across all 40 TTLMS technology subjects, with emphasis on explaining concepts, assessing implications, and recognizing practical applications.

B. Beyond individual proficiency to instructional practice

Teachers demonstrate how to translate technology knowledge into learning objectives, teaching materials, learner activities, assessments, and interdisciplinary projects.

C. Beyond examination results to professional evidence

TTLPro could require a portfolio of authentic work, including written explanations, presentations, applied projects, and technology-integrated instructional designs.

D. Beyond digital literacy to interdisciplinary articulation

With TTLPro, participants demonstrate how technologies affect education, business, careers, society, and other academic disciplines, communicating their implications to technical and nontechnical audiences.

4. How the two certifications could work together

Rather than competing directly, TTLPro complements IC3 in a progressive professional development pathway.

Stage 1: Digital literacy foundations

IC3 Digital Literacy GS6

Establish foundational, intermediate, and advanced digital literacy proficiency through the IC3 assessment pathway.

Stage 2: Transformative technology learning

The **Transformative Technology Literacy Framework (TTLF), Transformative Technology Literacy Microlearning Library (TTLML),** and **Transformative Technology Literacy Microlearning Series (TTLMS)** form an integrated, multimodal learning ecosystem.

Build technology knowledge, vocabulary, comprehension, and exposure across emerging technology domains.

Stage 3: Professional application

TTLF competency assessments

Demonstrate reading, listening, writing, speaking, technology fluency, and articulation through authentic professional work.

Stage 4: Professional recognition

TTLPro certification

Earn recognition after meeting the published professional competency, assessment, and portfolio requirements.

This is a recommended pathway, not an existing formal partnership or prerequisite arrangement. TTLPro remains accessible to participants without IC3 certification, and can implement an initial assessment or equivalent evidence of digital literacy.

5. What Zengage Learning is doing to make TTLPro more competitive

Five priorities that are strengthening the program:

1. Publishing a TTLPro competency standard. Map all six TTLF competencies and pillars to observable performance indicators and clearly defined proficiency levels.

2. Developing rigorous assessments. Combine knowledge testing with authentic tasks, scored portfolios, and consistent assessment rubrics. Validate the assessments before using them for high-stakes certification decisions.

3. Establishing independent credibility. Seek qualified external reviewers, educator advisory input, employer feedback, and pilot-study evidence. Pursue formal accreditation or external recognition if appropriate.

4. Demonstrating outcomes. Measure whether participants improve their technology comprehension, instructional practice,

professional communication, and ability to evaluate emerging technologies.

5. Building employer and institutional acceptance. Establish relationships with schools, colleges, workforce-development organizations, and employers. Publish exactly what the credential verifies and what it does not.

IC3 Digital Literacy - Establish and validate digital literacy proficiency.

TTLPro - Develop and demonstrate transformative technology literacy for professional application.

TTLPro is a Transformative Technology Literacy Professional development and certification program built around the Transformative Technology Literacy Framework (TTLF). Through the Transformative Technology Literacy Microlearning Series (TTLMS), the Transformative Technology Literacy Microlearning Library (TTLML), and competency-based assessment, the program is designed to help educators and other professionals understand, communicate, evaluate, and apply emerging technologies across disciplines.

This distinction is the integration of technology knowledge, six core literacy competencies, practical application, and professional evidence into a unified development pathway.

Bottom line

IC3 can serve as a foundation; TTLPro can serve as a professional application pathway. IC3's advantage is its established standardized certification system. TTLPro's opportunity is to develop a distinctive, evidence-based model for transformative technology literacy across education and professional practice. Learn more about TTLML/TTLMS